

The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Serving East Linn County Since 1929

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026

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May Week at SHHS

May Week Court members Skyler Wiley and Trinity Victor make their entrance at an assembly during the celebration last week at Sweet Home High School. May Week is a decades-old tradition at the school, usually held during the first week of school in the month of May – it was slightly delayed this year. The annual celebration of class spirit includes dress-up days and community service activities and culminates with a parade down Long Street to Husky Stadium and the annual Track Meet. See more photos on page 23 and at sweethomenews.com.

Photo by Scott Swanson



Lebanon backpacker, 80, rescued

An 80-year-old Lebanon man was found alive after two days of being reported missing when he didn't return from a hike in the area of Big Meadows Road, east of Idanha.

The Linn County Sheriff's Office received a report on Tuesday, May 12, at 5:25 p.m. that Jerry Highsmith went backpacking near Fir Lake and had planned to return by 5 p.m. that evening ahead of anticipated incoming weather.

Deputies responded to the area and located Highsmith's vehicle parked at the Fir Lake trailhead off Big Meadows Road. Following an initial search in the Fir Lake area, LCSO activated its full Search and Rescue team, deploying searchers on the trail who conducted searches through the night under heavy rain and thunderstorm conditions.

At 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 14, LCSO reported

See Rescue, Page 17

Lebanon schools Budget Committee struggles with proposed athletics cuts

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Members of the Lebanon Community School District Budget Committee are wrestling with how to keep sports – particularly middle school football – intact, while cutting \$2 million from the budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

At their initial budget meeting, held Thursday, May 14, members made it clear that they were not comfortable with eliminating any sports, and they discussed how cuts to coaching staffs should be "equitable."

The committee is composed of all five School Board members – Melissa Baurer, Lorelee Engler, Mike Martin, Nichole Piland and Clyde Rood, and appointees William Barish, Jeff King, Roger Maurer, Anthony Morelos and Kelly Tucci.

They agreed to meet again at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 21, to further discuss the issues.

The School Board is scheduled to adopt a final budget following a public hearing on June 11.

Supt. Jennifer Meckley opened the meeting by acknowledging questions and concerns raised about various aspects of the budget, particularly the proposed cuts to athletics.

She reminded members and the audience that "this is a proposed budget"

"Throughout this process, our priority has been to keep reductions as far away from the classroom as possible, while also striving to make reductions equitable across employee groups and departments," she said. "Balancing the many competing priorities within our district has been extremely challenging, especially because each area represents important and meaningful work that supports our students and community."

Budget Proposal Overview

Meckley introduced the proposed \$99.4 million budget, noting that it includes \$2 million in cuts in areas such as personnel, which accounts for approximately 80% of the total, as well as departments and programs, due to

a three-year decrease in student enrollment, similar to other school districts across Oregon.

"These reductions were not made lightly," she said, adding that district leaders thoroughly reviewed the options, "carefully weighing the impact of every decision" with regard to the district's five focus areas: academic achievement; safety and belonging for students, staff and families; maintaining financial integrity; maintaining effective facilities; and strengthening community connections.

Steven Prosocki, the district's director of finance, later fleshed out various aspects of the budget that were summarized in Meckley's budget message.

The superintendent highlighted "several bright spots" from the last year: growth in early literacy, a high school graduation rate of just under 90%, and close to 80% participation in Career and Technical Education programs. Also, she said, preschool offerings

See Budget, Page 8

HOMETOWN
NEWSPAPER OF

STEVEN
JOHNSTON

This Week's Top Stories



Lebanon police officers honored

Two Lebanon police officers were honored for life-saving actions. [Page 24](#)



Husky golfers score state berth

Sweet Home's boys secured their first state golf tournament berth since 2018.



Obituaries

Roy Grabeel

Jan. 11, 1947 - May 13, 2026
Roy Lee Grabeel, 79, of Sweet Home, passed away May 13, 2026.

He was born Jan. 11, 1947, to Lucille (Toliver) and Les Grabeel in Wright City, Okla.

He lived in Wright City, then moved to Sweet Home in the 1950s.

Roy served in the Army from 1966 to 1986. The Army allowed him to travel the world. Roy lived in Germa-



ny for nine years, along with stops in Oklahoma, Washington and Georgia. In 1987 he moved back to Sweet Home and has lived here since.

After the Army he worked as a carpenter. He also worked as a Real Estate Broker and was a construction supervisor before retiring.

Roy liked to metal detect; he enjoyed hunting, fishing and most of all he loved to spend time with his family.

He is survived by his children, Travis (Angeliq) Grabeel, Anna (Scot) McKillop, Esther Meyer and Misty Spiers, all of Sweet Home; siblings Mike Grabeel and Charles Grabeel, both of Sweet Home, and Patty Chastain of St. Helens; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife Gail Grabeel (2025); and his sisters, Glenda Richards and Betty White.

Viewing was May 18 at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. A funeral service was held May 19 at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel followed by a

burial with military honors at Gilliland Cemetery.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Karen Ramirez

Sept. 19, 1956 - May 2, 2026

Karen Gail Ramirez, 69, of Sweet Home passed away May 2, 2026.

She was born Sept. 19, 1956, to Jean (Itzkowitz) and Joseph Meltzer in Brooklyn, N.Y.

She moved to Sweet Home in 2006.

Karen worked in the healthcare industry recently as a treatment aid at a memory care facility. She liked to go shopping, and enjoyed spending time with friends. She loved baseball, gardening, coffee, and she adored cats.

Karen is survived by her husband, Samuel Ramirez of Sweet Home; and her daughter, Samantha Ramirez of Corvallis.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and sister, Susan Sannino.

A celebration of life will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at the Sweet Home Elks Lodge.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 28, at Roseburg National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Safehaven Humane Society in Tangent. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Mark Woodrow

March 4, 1954 - May 13, 2026

Mark Kirby Woodrow, 72, passed May 13, 2026, due to complications of Parkinson's disease.

He was born on March 4, 1954 in Oakland, Calif., to Doyle K. Woodrow and Mary Woodrow (nee Barnett). He was the oldest of four siblings: Ellen, Daniel, and Jason Woodrow.

He attended Mount Diablo High School in Concord, Calif., until 10th grade, then moved to Corvallis and graduated from Corvallis High School in 1972.

In 1975 he joined the U.S. Navy, where he served for five years as an electrician's mate.

He married Jo Ellen Yacovetti of Lake Oswego in 1981 and subsequently had four children: Jessie Ellen Woodrow Robinson (Thomas), Brendan Doyle Woodrow, Daniel Jason Woodrow (Melody) and Patrick Caleb Woodrow (Rebecca).

After Mark and Jo Ellen divorced in 1996, Mark married Deanna Griner Bean in Spokane, Wash., and he gained two stepsons, Nicholas Ray Bean (Megan) and Kellen Lee Bean.

Family meant much to him. He proudly boasted about his 14 grandchildren that he loved so much.

Mark's career as a journeyman hydroelectric dam operator took him to several places, working for several companies in Washington, Arizona, and Oregon.

He retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Foster at the end of 2020.

Mark loved music, playing in various bands and worship teams throughout his life. Most importantly, Mark loved his Lord and Savior, Je-

sus Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Doyle and Mary, his brother Daniel Woodrow, and his beloved stepson Kellen Bean.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, May 22, 2026 at Wilson's Chapel of the Roses; 965 W Harvard Ave, Roseburg. Military honors will follow at 3 p.m. within the grounds of Roseburg National Cemetery.

Judith Yocom

Nov. 28, 1946 - March 11, 2026

Judith Sharon (Maloney) Yocom, 79, passed away March 11, 2026, in Lewiston, Idaho, following a short illness.

She was born Nov. 28, 1946, in Hastings, Neb., to James H. and Adaline T. Byrne Maloney. She had many siblings.

She graduated from Sweet Home Union High School in 1964 and attended Oregon State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In 1969 she married John H. Yocom in Pensacola, Fla., who was in the Navy. Over the years they lived in Florida; Newport, R.I.; San Diego, Calif.; Portland and Lewiston.

She worked for Dunhill Temporary Services in Portland.

Judith was a life member of the Sports Car Club of America, traveling throughout the U.S. and Canada for racing events, often working at tracks during competitions.



She was a prolific reader and had a massive book collection. When asked, on occasion, if she had read all of them, her normal reply was "which one would you like to discuss?"

Judith is survived by her son, Eric and daughter-in-law Jen Yocom, of Beaverton; and numerous siblings in the U.S. and Canada.

She was preceded in death by her husband, U.S. Navy Commander John H. Yocom; her parents, James and Adaline Maloney; and her brother, James Maloney.

Services will be held at a later date, with interment at the Willamette National Cemetery, where her husband is buried, and at the family plot in Illinois.

Remembrances can be made to the animal shelter of your choice.

Death Notices

Dustin Kyle Coughran, 36, of Sweet Home passed away May 8, 2026.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Edward Dean Nieman, 77, of Sweet Home passed away May 15, 2026.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Douglas William Stubings, 43, of Sweet Home passed away May 8, 2026.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Events

The New Era publishes announcements of upcoming events at no charge, as space permits. Free and nonprofit events are prioritized, but free services or events offered by for-profit businesses will also be included as space permits. To submit an event, email information (description, location, date, time and any other necessary details, as well as contact information for questions) to news@sweethome-news.com at least two weeks prior to the event. Questions? Call (541) 367-2135 or send a message to the above email.

FINAL FLOWER DESIGN CLASS THURSDAY

The Lebanon Garden Club will host its final flower design class this year on Thursday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St.

The free classes are held in preparation for the annual Strawberry Festival Standard

Flower Show to encourage the community to participate. However, participation is not required.

You must register, due to limited space. Register by email or phone at LebanonGCOR@gmail.com or 541-981-9560; submit name (first and last), email and phone number. A donation of \$5-10 is appreciated, to cover the cost of supplies.

May 21 - Teacup and miniature design. This hands-on course requires you bring a teacup or teacup-sized container to take home your own design.

BLOOD DRIVE MAY 21 AT MEDICAL SCHOOL

Western University of Health Sciences will host a blood drive in support of Bloodworks Northwest from 12-6 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, at COMP-NW, 200 Mullins Dr., Heritage Hall, Lebanon.

Reservations are required

for the one-hour appointment by visiting bloodworksNW.org/giveblood (do a search by zip code to find correct appointment), or go directly to https://donate.bloodworksNW.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/107029.

Photo ID required. For safety, we kindly request no visitors under 16 at our donation sites. Eat a hearty meal and drink plenty of fluids prior to donation.

For more information, email MCclubLebanon@westernu.edu.

STRAWBERRY RUNS SIGNUP DEADLINE

The deadline to get a T-shirt and sign up for the Lebanon Strawberry 1 Mile/5K run/walk is May 22.

Cost is \$25 for the 5K, \$8 for the 1 Mile.

T-Shirts are included for all 5k participants who pre-register by May 22. 1 Mile participants can buy a shirt for

\$10 until that date.

The races are held before the Grand Parade on Saturday, June 6. The Mile begins at 9 a.m., with the 5K at 9:30. The flat, fast out-and-back course runs from the American Legion Hall on Main Street through downtown to BiMart and back to the start, along the parade route.

Sign up at www.lebanonstrawberryfest.com/runwalk.html.

POTATO BAKE, DESSERT AT SH LEGION

Timber City American Legion Post 133 will hold a potato bake and dessert auction from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 22, at 109 W. Holley Road in Sweet Home.

The public is invited. A medium potato dinner with a salad and drink is \$12. A large potato meal is \$15. Desserts will be auctioned off.

Also, a weekly Legion Breakfast is held from 8:30

a.m. to 11 a.m., open to the public.

LEBANON LIBRARY SEEKS YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Students ages 13 through 18 are invited to join the Lebanon Public Library's Summer Youth Volunteer Program 2026.

Applications must be turned in by Saturday, May 23.

Duties for youth volunteers include assisting with set-up for performers, helping children during hands-on activity days, and assisting librarians during the performances. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to hand out prizes and sign up participants for the summer reading incentives program.

On Thursday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m., youth volunteers can help shelve in the children's area of the library. Youth will also be given the opportunity to help with storytimes and other events.

To qualify, students must

See Events, Page 5

Public Safety

- Information herein is sourced from law enforcement and fire agencies. Details, which may not always be available in time for our weekly publication, are updated on our website as information becomes available. - Addresses noted generally denote the location of the incident or arrest, occasionally indicating the origin of the call.

- Our reporting of an individual's arrest or citation for a crime does not imply guilt. Determination of guilt can only be established through legal proceedings in court. We commit significant effort to following through as cases move through the judicial process. A Roman numeral indicates the degree of a charge: theft I (first-degree theft).

- Following are abbreviations that may appear in our log reports:
AMC (Albany Municipal Court), **DU** (Driving uninsured/without insurance), **DUII** (Driving while intoxicated), **DWS** (driving while suspended), **FTA** (failure to appear), **FTC** (failure to comply), **FTOTCD** (Failure to obey traffic control device), **LCJ** (Linn County Jail), **LCSO** (Linn County Sheriff's Office), **LCCC** (Linn County Circuit Court), **LCJC** (Linn County Justice Court), **LMC** (Lebanon Municipal Court), **MIP** (Minor in possession), **PV** (Probation Violation), **SHMC** (Sweet Home Municipal Court), **SHPD** (Sweet Home Police Department), **SLCH** (Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital)

MAY 17

SWEET HOME POLICE

5:48 a.m. - Caller reported intoxicated male in front of Safeway, 1540 Main. Officer responded, male was trespassed.

9:57 a.m. - Joshua Paul Eli, 37, arrested after he turned himself in on LMC warrant for probation violation in reckless endangerment case. 800 block 3rd. Cited and released.
 9:45 p.m. - Multiple callers reported screaming male in area of 15th/Nandina. Officer contacted male, who had been pepper sprayed. Male declined to pursue charges and didn't want to talk with officer. Evaluated by medics. Declined transport.

LEBANON POLICE

8:01 a.m. - Caller reported driver ran several red lights, driving on wrong side of road. Caller followed him to Walmart and approached him about his driving. He yelled at caller, put fist in her face.

9:03 a.m. - Caller lunged at by dog while out running, 1300 block Franklin St. Subject identified only as Mullenix cited for nuisance dog.

7:26 p.m. - Philip Stanley Shanklin, 35, cited on LCCC warrant for DUII.

8:39 p.m. - Juvenile cited on Benton County Circuit Court warrants for theft I, absconding; listed as missing out of Corvallis.

8:47 p.m. - Shoplifter in Walmart, \$147.80 in items. Kasha Angelene Carper, 38,

cited for theft II.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

1:13 a.m. - Travis Alan Gates, 30, of Sweet Home, arrested for domestic violence - strangulation and domestic violence - menacing after report of domestic disturbance in 500 block 43rd. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

9:38 a.m. - LCSO performed boat inspections at BiMart, 1980 Main.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

10:30 a.m. - Crash reported in 32500 block Berlin. Minor injuries. Report taken.

6:09 p.m. - Morgan Rand, 36, of Sweet Home, arrested on Campbell Global property in 51200 block Quartzville on Albany, Lebanon and Linn County warrants, all for contempt of court. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

MAY 16

SWEET HOME POLICE

10:58 a.m. - Caller reported bicycle stolen from 1600 block Tamarack. Officer responded, report taken for theft II, criminal mischief II. Bike described as green beach cruiser with fat tires, valued at approximately \$200.

12:11 p.m. - Michaelray Jensen, 45, and Clifford Lawrence Stoner both arrested for disorderly conduct following report of disturbance in 1600 block Long. Cited and released. Jensen also cited and released on on SHMC warrant for FTA in trespassing case.

LEBANON POLICE

12:49 a.m. - Aaron Josue Melchor-Munoz, 31, cited for DWS, DU.

3:11 a.m. - Angus Waylon White, 22, cited on Lane County Circuit Court warrant for FTA - reckless driving. Car towed.

8:47 a.m. - Goat at large on railroad tracks, near Weirich Dr.

9:22 a.m. - Female reported male at Walmart acting inappropriate to her, said she was "looking good" and insisted she go over to him.

2:53 p.m. - Caller reported van seemed to be following her children. White van with spray-painted "I pump my own gas" and "free candy" going up and down street, looked at her children several times.

3:16 p.m. - Customer skip-scanned two items at Walmart. Loss: \$28. Items returned.

6:52 p.m. - Keely Minnie Lillie Gomez, 21, cited on LCCC warrant for FTA - unauthorized use of a vehicle.

7:22 p.m. - Devin Michael Houseman, 39, cited on LMC warrant for FTA II, and OSPB warrant.

8:53 p.m. - Theft of tool set in chest from Harbor Freight. Loss: \$390.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

1:37 a.m. - Thomas McCarthy, 62, of Sweet Home, arrested for DWS and for warrants, and cited for DU, failure to register vehicle, failure to display plate. Foster Dam/Poplar. Report taken.

11:51 a.m. - Kristin Wilkinson, 32, of Hillsboro, cited for careless driving after non-injury crash in area of Hwy. 228/Falk, Halsey. Report taken.

1:09 p.m. - Michael Fortson, 62, of Brownsville, arrested for physical harassment, 400 block N. Main, Brownsville. Report taken.

7:39 p.m. - Teresa Rodriguez, 59, of Junction City, cited for speeding, 25200 block Hwy. 99, Halsey.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

10:09 a.m. - Jonathan Trisdale, 45, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant, giving false info to police officer and criminal trespass II, Brewster/Berlin. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

12:49 p.m. - Anthony Middleton, 63, of Lebanon, arrested on warrants, 000 block E. Airport. Cited and released. Report taken.

12:54 p.m. - LCSO conducted boat safety inspections at BiMart, 2600 block Santiam Hwy.

2:00 p.m. - Caller reported wallet missing, 100 block Russell. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

5:27 p.m. - Jack Counts, 37, of Lebanon, arrested for unspecified warrant, 1300 block Hiatt. Report taken.

7:46 p.m. - Terry Conner, 56, of Portland, arrested on U.S. Marshal warrant, possession of fentanyl, possession of meth, and cited for DWS, careless driving, failure to yield to emergency vehicle and failure to renew vehicle registration. Main/Elmore. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

MAY 15

SWEET HOME POLICE

12:18 p.m. - Caller from Sweet Home High School, 1641 Long, reported that a juvenile had pulled a knife on another student. Officers responded, contacted all parties involved and their parents. Aggrieved parties declined to pursue charges. School to handle discipline.

1:34 p.m. - Caller from Shea Point reported female passed out in driver's seat of vehicle parked at rest area. Officer responded. Medics had contacted the occupant earlier in the day, observing the odor of alcohol, according to police. Officer did not observe that, but determined that occupant was OK and would not be driving.

2:33 p.m. - Caller reported multiple people setting up camp in area of 16th/Cedar. Officer responded, contacted male, who was given deadline to move vehicle. He was

working on it.

4:14 p.m. - Lisa Beth Richards, 57, arrested by Monmouth police on SHMC warrants for FTA in theft and trespassing cases. Cited to appear June 10.

5:14 p.m. - Caller reported broken car window and vehicle burglary in 1800 block Yucca. Information noted for insurance.

5:39 p.m. - Jenny Marie Aultman arrested for DUII, 47th/Nandina. Cited and released.

6:14 p.m. - Caller from Dollar Tree, 2414 Main, reported theft. Officer responded, was unable to locate suspect. Report taken for theft III.

6:23 p.m. - Daryl Wayne Burns, 66, arrested for assault IV-felony domestic, attempted assault of a public safety officer, resisting arrest and bias crime II - disorderly conduct, 4000 block Osage.

According to SHPD, Sharon Goodwin, 54, reported that her significant other, Burns, hit her in the face. Officers contacted Goodwin and discovered she had injuries to her face consistent with her report. Officers attempted to interview Burns, who, police said, attempted to flee, allegedly resisting arrest and attempting to assault the officers taking him into custody. Lodged at LCJ.

7:00 p.m. - Caller reported female assaulted by male. Officer responded, report taken for assault IV.

7:51 p.m. - Caller reported male yelling inside residence in 1100 block 43rd. Officer responded, contacted residents, who were having band practice. No disturbance.

9:29 p.m. - Multiple callers reported "very loud music" from Dam Bar, 6099 Main. Officer responded, contacted employees, who did not reduce volume, then contacted owner who was successful in getting music turned down.

10:31 p.m. - Caller reported female leaving location in 1400 block 47th, "too intoxicated." Officer responded, contacted female, who had fallen but declined medics. She was given courtesy transport to her residence.

Lebanon Police
 2:44 a.m. - Theft of Coors beer from 7-11.

2:50 a.m. - Jonathan Hugh Trisdale IV, 45, cited on LMC warrant for PV.

9:14 a.m. - Subject waving hatchet and knife, screaming, near Carl's Jr. Subject told police the voices in his head were so loud he was yelling back.

11:38 a.m. - Shania Little Sims, 27, cited on Benton County Circuit Court warrant for FTA - dangerous drugs.

See Public Safety, Page 7

Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



"The business has changed, my friend."

TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
5/12	77	49	0.00
5/13	66	45	0.00
5/14	70	43	0.00
5/15	65	42	0.00
5/16	59	46	0.00
5/17	62	41	0.12
5/18	71	42	0.00

RAIN IN INCHES

Year to date: **10.42**
 5/14/25: **18.60**

FORECAST

DATE	WEATHER	HIGH/LOW
5/21	Sunny	80/51
5/22	Sunny	80/49
5/23	Cloudy	77/47
5/24	Cloudy	77/47
5/25	Cloudy	67/42
5/26	Cloudy	69/44
5/27	Cloudy	68/43

LAKE LEVELS

Foster **614.6**
 Green Peter **981.7**

CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 19

B	B	L					C	H	U						
O	R	E					B	O	U	N	D				
B	O	S	H				I	A	M	B	I				
C	O	L	A				D	M	Z	A	I	M			
A	C	I	D	S			E	K	E	A	N	D	S		
T	H	E	J	E	F	F	E	R	S	O	N	S			
			L	P	G		S	I	N						
			A	B	A	S		B	I	L	E				
			B	I	T		U	M	A						
			S	C	O	T	C	H	W	H	I	S	K	E	Y
E	R	A	S		O	A	F		A	L	I	C	E		
B	I	B		P	P	B			A	G	H	A			
A	B	L	E	R					T	A	O	S			
N	E	E	D	Y					L	I	T				
S	S	T							I	C	Y				

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 19

3	7	5	1	6	2	9	8	4
9	1	2	4	5	8	7	6	3
4	6	8	7	3	9	2	5	1
6	4	3	8	9	1	5	2	7
7	5	9	2	4	6	1	3	8
8	2	1	5	7	3	4	9	6
1	3	6	9	2	4	8	7	5
5	9	4	3	8	7	6	1	2
2	8	7	6	1	5	3	4	9

From our Files



Candy Thompson puts finishing touches on her cedar chest with the help of Christ Wilcox in the high school woodshop in 1976.

MAY 24, 1951

In the face of one of the worst farm labor shortages in recent years, the Lebanon office of the state employment service issued a plea for help in harvesting berry and bean crops. The office contacted schools to urge sign-ups from persons down to 11 years old. Of primary concern is harvesting of berry crops, clearing, planting and hoeing. Particularly needed is the county's 110 acres of strawberries mostly near Lacomb.

Disappointing results were reported from the Red Cross bloodmobile when Sweet Home missed its goal of 200 by 62 pints. The scheduling chairman expressed disappointment over the 58 no-shows of scheduled donors, stating they either forgot or "thought the donation unimportant to a fighting man in Korea."

Crews will begin work on Sweet Home's community pool with all efforts to rush its

completion. This was made possible by efforts of the Jaycees to secure \$13,000 in something of a "loan" by businessmen and other supporters for deficits of a \$29,000 cost.

Over the objections of Warren Korstad, a Eugene outdoor advertising man, the Sweet Home City Council gave its first reading of a new ordinance prohibiting construction of billboards within the city. Korstad was ordered to remove a nearly-completed billboard on M Street, but stated the ordinance was "discriminatory and unconstitutional."

MAY 20, 1976

William Roebuck, 17, is healing from wounds sustained when the car he was driving rolled and burned on Quartzville Road about a half-mile north of Hwy. 20. The car reportedly began to swerve to the right, went off to the left, veered back across the pavement and

plunged into a canyon before bursting into flames. Roebuck's injuries included third-degree burns and face lacerations.

Norm "Hoop" Davis, coach of Sweet Home High's AAA state championship team, was named AAA Coach of the Year at the first annual All State Wrestling Banquet in Albany. Dick Weisbrodt, of Lebanon, handed Davis a myrtlewood plaque for the honor and explained Sweet Home has become famous for the "hoop hold."

MAY 23, 2001

A Sweet Home bus carrying the freshman baseball team and an empty milk tanker collided one mile south of Monmouth on Hwy. 99. Four Huskies were treated for minor injuries, bus driver Adeline Hight had a broken wrist, and Coach Tim O'Donnell had a cracked rib and vertebrae. Hight saw the truck coming and everything was fine until "all of a sudden he turned for us."

Letters to the Editor

Urban renewal has pros, cons

Editor:

I lived in suburban Clackamas County 32 years before moving to Linn County.

For much of that time the county was a hotbed of population growth, planning fiascos, and speculation. As a land use and transportation specialist, I served for almost eight years on the Gladstone Planning Commission. On many occasions I witnessed major decisions being made with little or no public involvement.

An area of deep concern was the practice of diverting millions in property taxes to urban renewal districts.

Urban renewal districts were originally formed to fund revitalization of decaying inner cities.

They operate as a separate agency with their own budget. The funding comes from freezing the tax rate in the district and borrowing millions to finance street and infrastructure improvements. The improvements are paid for by borrowing, which is eventually paid back as property values increase.

UR has become a devel-

opment tool that's easily abused. Cities are declaring areas to be "blighted" in order to fund improvements on bare land. Many have maxed out the amount of taxes diverted to UR allowable under Oregon law.

Unfortunately, Lebanon is one of them.

An urban renewal district is a separate government agency that has its own board. In Lebanon, the mayor is the board chair, the Budget Committee chair, and chair of the UR Budget Committee.

It's an invitation to conflicts of interest.

Urban renewal can be used discretely, but that often isn't the case. Residents are shocked when they discover it takes millions in property taxes annually from schools, police and emergency services. Those entities are increasingly reliant on bond measures to backfill their budgets.

The Lebanon Urban Renewal Agency has a large bond payment due in 2028. Meanwhile, the city is at risk of ending 2027 with a budget deficit.

Alongside urban renewal is an organization founded

to promote downtown. The Lebanon Downtown Association (LDA) is an officially recognized entity with the authority to award grants. In 2022 The LDA lost its non-profit status in an accounting scandal.

Ken Jackola was a board member of the LDA in 2019 and 2020. In 2022 he received a \$100,000 LDA grant for housing improvements to his building on Main St. Jackola was awarded the grant during the time the LDA was not in compliance. A few months later the organization collapsed.

The LDA was revived with the assistance of a founding member, Dala Johnson. Here's an excerpt from a July 2023 "Lebanon Local" article that describes the severity of the situation: "Dala Johnson, a former executive board member until 2018, said she returned to the nonprofit at the beginning of 2023 in an effort to straighten out legal and organizational problems it was having.

"The board, she said, had not maintained filings with the Internal Revenue Service and Department of Justice, and had lost its status as a nonprofit entity.

"As such, it also was at risk of losing good faith with Oregon Main Street (through Main Street America), a relationship Johnson said she had worked hard in the beginning to foster.

"Further muddying the waters of perception is the fact that the Jackolas, who now have positions of leadership as mayor and LDA president, have received funding through LDA for what is, essentially, their residence. In 2022, the Jackolas received \$100,000 from a LDA revitalization grant (funded

through the Oregon Main Street Program) for the remodeling of downtown property they own, namely the Courtney Building's second story, where they live.

Though Davis said she does not believe the Jackolas are intentionally using their positions to benefit themselves financially, she said it just looks bad and may be a conflict of interest."

Questions arise about what the taxpayers got for their \$100,000 investment, and why

Jackola and his wife are registered to vote at two different addresses in their building.

I recently received a text message stating that Jackola's campaign for state representative isn't about insiders, but most of his campaign donations are from a few sources, including developers with their eyes on filling wetlands to accommodate growth.

Expect to hear these concerns are a hit job or veiled political maneuver. That's clearly not the case. The information was easily located on government and the Lebanon Local websites.

Les Poole
Sweet Home

Thoughts of love in the springtime

Editor:

"Tis spring, and a young man's fancy turns to..." you know, luv.

"Oh, my heart races every time I see her/him!"

"If she/he would be mine, wouldn't everyone envy me!"

"We'd go to my favorite hole-in-the-wall Italian place..."

"I just want to be with her/him every minute, all the time."

Have you noticed a theme

here? It's all about him/her. This is not love. This admired person may have higher goals than to be a toy, but to be a teammate, working together, not for.

Consider this: I heard it on the radio.

Supper is done. She says to him, "Please help me with the dishes."

"I don't want to help with the dishes."

"I know, but I want you to want to help me with the dishes."

"Why would I want that?"

Remember above, he wanted to be with her all the time.

Let's define what real love is not: wiser than you, stronger, in control, rich and generous, proud,

boastful, demeaning/rude, hold grudges, grouchy/grumbly, laugh when others fail or fall, greedy, taking advantage of a vulnerable victim. Real love wants to contribute to the advancement and fulfillment of the beloved by working side by side as a team, encouraging, listening, compromising and adapting, persevering through problems, facing problems as a challenge rather than with a whine, enduring setbacks and discomforts for the advancement of the larger plan.

Be honest, gentle, kind, respectful, think what effect your words and attitude will have on others.

Make their day! Everyone does their share of duties (that others call chores), no slacking.

Whatever you do, do a decently good job, not "a lick and a promise."

Whoever finds this marvelous person had better offer a similar character of himself to the companion.

Take a look inside yourself.

See Letters, Page 5

THE
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EVENTS

From page 2

be 13 to 18 years old, must turn in a completed Volunteer Application, and must attend a mandatory orientation session. Youth Volunteer Applications are available at the Lebanon Public Library.

For more information contact Darcy Smith at (541) 258-4926 or darcysmith@lebanonoregon.gov.

ALBANY THEATER TO STAGE 'FINAL CUT'

Albany Civic Theater will put on a three-day production of "Final Cut: An Interactive Murder Mystery," Friday and Saturday, May 22-23, at 111 W. 1st Ave., Albany.

Director Eddie Cheek is looking for backers for his new movie, "The Zombie Was An Alien," so he's throwing a 1950s investors gala shindig for interested parties. This is an interactive murder mystery party, in which audience members will be gala attendees who will be encouraged to dress up, have fun, and talk to audience and actors alike in order to understand the full story and solve the mystery. Audience members are encouraged to dress for the theme. All proceeds go directly to the theater's "Next Stage" fund, intended to expand and improve the theater's capacity to better serve the community in more versatile ways.

For more information or to

purchase tickets, visit www.albanycivic.org/tickets.

FREE SWEET HOME ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

In partnership with Green Century Electronics Recycling, the City of Sweet Home will host a free household electronics recycling event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, at Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main St.

This event is open to households and small businesses. Green Century Electronics Recycling will perform secure data destruction (NIST 800.88) on data-containing devices.

Be sure to follow the guidance for what can and cannot be recycled. There will not be the opportunity to dispose of anything not accepted by Green Century Electronics Recycling on site.

For more information, contact Maggie Clark, of Green Century Electronics Recycling, at maggie@greencenturyonline.net, or call 503-764-9963.

FOSTER DAM ROAD CLOSURE NEXT WEEK

The road over Foster Dam will be closed from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 27.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will install a weir in the spillway gate, allowing for juvenile fish passage and temperature control. An additional closure day may be required from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, May 28, for an

inspection.

Updates and further information is available by calling (541) 942-5631.

WELLNESS FAIR AT PIONEER SCHOOL

Pioneer School will host a Wellness Fair from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, at 500 N. Fifth St., Lebanon.

Families are invited to enjoy free food, music, prizes and a kid zone, and learn about community resources and support that are available.

LINN COUNTY TOWN HALL

Linn County Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger and Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan will host a town hall meeting from 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, at the Lebanon Fire District, 1050 W Oak St.

This is an opportunity for Linn County residents to hear updates about county initiatives, ask questions and share input about issues affecting communities and public safety.

For more information, contact Amanda Giles at 541-967-3825, or email gilesa@co.linn.or.us.

ROLLIN' OLDIES CRUISE-IN

The Rollin' Oldies Car Club invites car enthusiasts to join them for a pre-Strawberry Festival Cruise-In from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, at Grocery Outlet, 2540 S Santiam Hwy., Lebanon.

Lots of classic cars and trucks from our part of the Willamette

See Events, Page 8

LETTERS

From page 4

Man works from sunup to sundown, but woman's work is never done....

Swap duties one day a month, and see how life looks when you wear the other person's shoes.

She can golf or go somewhere to communicate with adults while he gets the little baby up, fed and dressed, asks the 4-year-old to set the table, puts the toddler in the high chair, feeds the kids something better than Froot Loops, such as scrambled eggs, or oatmeal with raisins. Waffles are faster than pancakes.

Each child takes his place-setting to the sink... nobody is the servant of anyone else to clear the table, so each one does his share. Load the dishwasher.

Sweep the kitchen. Change the sheets on a bed, and do a load of laundry. Diaper and feed the baby.

Play/teach the kids for a half hour. Feed kids lunch, down for naps. Clean the sinks and toilets. Water the petunias. Check the mailbox, answer what you need to. Fold the laundry. Diaper and feed the baby. Kids are up, load them in the car and go get groceries. You've smiled and been a pleasant parent all day, right?

Band-Aid a skinned knee. Diaper and feed the baby. Start making supper. Exhaustion! And the day isn't even

over yet. Be grateful you do it only once a month, while wifey never sits down all day when she's on duty. She would love to have time to read sometimes, or catch up on the mending.

How does a person find such a treasure for a partner? Parties, no... everyone wears a facade, plays a game, best foot forward.

You want to be real, and find a real mate.

Old-fashioned corn huskings and barn raisings worked well, to observe how others work, or slack off. Some sports, gardening projects, volunteering, might work these days, or paint a Sunday school classroom together.

Take time to make a good choice, not merely beat a competitor. Love is a relationship, not a newer car.

How did I come by all this wisdom? Partly by making mistakes, then by interpreting I Corinthians 13 to fit my life and experience. (Bibles are free at the the bookstore on 12th and Long.)

By the way, true love will be generous to family and others, for their good, not for your self-importance.

Don't expect anyone to make you happy; forget about yourself. You make others happy, and it falls back on you. Same with love... give it, and it will be given back. That's the only way the road goes.

Joan Scofield
Sweet Home

Huskies go 2-1 in up-and-down week of baseball

By Keeghan Gittins
For The New Era

Sweet Home's week in baseball was filled with highs and lows as the Huskies dropped the first two games of their series against North Marion before bouncing back with a 10-2 win in the final game.

Sweet Home opened the series with a deflating 21-13 loss on Monday, May 11, after jumping out to an early 8-0 lead in the first inning. The Huskies followed that with a 16-5 mercy-rule loss on Wednesday before responding Thursday in Game 3 with a dominant 10-2 victory.

Sweet Home's offense exploded throughout the series, collecting 17 hits from eight different players while six players recorded multiple hits.

In the opener, Sweet Home looked unstoppable early. Kyle Zajic sparked the offense with a double, a walk and two singles while scoring two runs. With the bases loaded, Bradyn McClure crushed a high fly ball to center field that barely cleared the fence for the first grand slam and home run of his high school career. The Huskies batted through the entire lineup in the first inning and later built an 11-2 lead entering the

fourth inning.

"Watching Bradyn hit one out was a great experience for him and his teammates. I'm glad he was able to get that moment, and although the rest of the game wasn't great, hopefully it's something he can remember," Coach Evan Teter said.

North Marion slowly chipped away behind timely hitting and Sweet Home errors, cutting the lead to 13-10 before erupting for 11 unanswered runs in the seventh inning to complete the comeback and hand the Huskies a 21-13 loss.

"We got a little too comfortable with our lead. North Marion had some timely hits, and we had a hard time when we had plays we could make," said Teter.

McClure finished with a team-high four RBIs after the grand slam, while Zajic went 3-for-5 with a double, home run, three RBIs and two runs scored, totaling seven bases.

Luke Rosa turned in a perfect 5-for-5 performance at the plate, scoring twice, driving in two runs and stealing two bases. Tregon Francis added two RBIs while going 2-for-5 with a run scored. Damon Lawrence collected two hits, scored once and stole a base, while Jake Smith added two hits and crossed the plate once.

Sweet Home totaled 12 RBIs, drew three walks and struck out only eight times in 39 at-bats while producing six extra-base hits.

Defensively, the Huskies committed five errors, which

North Marion capitalized on late. North Marion finished with 15 hits while also taking advantage of eight walks.

Zajic started on the mound for Sweet Home, pitching the first 3.2 innings while striking out four and allowing just one earned run despite five total runs scored against him. Colton Lindsey relieved and recorded three strikeouts over 2.2 innings pitched.

Rosa was sent in to try and end the game, but the switch was not enough as North Marion scored four against him and then three against Micheal Eggers.

The second game proved difficult for the Huskies as they fell 16-5 in a mercy-rule loss.

"Wednesday was a rough game. We worked hard at

practice to tweak some things and felt good going into the game, but just had a hard time getting things going," Tete said.

Sweet Home responded in the finale with a 10-2 victory. "In Game 3 Luke did a good job of throwing strikes and keeping hitters and base runners on their toes," the coach said. "It gave us room for mistakes, but we also were able to have a big inning and score seven runs, which is always helpful."

The Huskies were just outside of a playoff berth coming into this week, but the margins are slim they need to win out and multiple teams to lose multiple games in a row. Sweet Home looks to use

See SH Baseball, Page 11

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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

2:12 p.m. - Subject reported she was sold a bad batch of meth that was making her sick.

3:38 p.m. - Georgia Tyler, 38, cited for DWS. Car towed.

5:00 p.m. - Car crashed into Papa Murphy's building. Driver wasn't sure what happened. She was coming around the corner of the parking lot when her car jumped the curb and spun the front tires in the pea gravel as it hit the southwest corner of the building.

5:23 p.m. - Scott A. Phillips, 40, cited on LCCC warrant for PV - eluding.

6:40 p.m. - Benjamin P. Hyatt, 47, cited on LCCC warrants for FTAs - violating a stalking order, disorderly conduct II.

7:07 p.m. - Chet Thomas Hamilton, 49, cited on OSPB warrant for parole violation.

7:18 p.m. - Caller reported subject showed gun in waistband and called him a "pussy." Subject fled from police, hopped multiple fences. The subject, a juvenile, arrested for trespassing, menacing. Report taken.

8:09 p.m. - Caller reported female slumped over inside a car. Female fell asleep trying to figure out an auto diagnostic tool for her car.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

8:13 a.m. - Driver, who was not identified in LCSO log, cited for DWS, 25600 block Hwy. 99. This entry will be updated when we get information.

10:21 p.m. - Colton Housing, 36, of Lebanon, arrested for criminal trespass II on CTC property, 47200 block Quartzville. Report taken.

7:52 p.m. - Caller reported concerns about infant in 41000 block Upper Calapooia. Matter referred to DHS.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

9:37 a.m. - Richard Walls, 55, of Lebanon, arrested on

two outstanding warrants in meth possession cases, 1200 block E. Grant. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

12:22 p.m. - Jack Thompson, 37, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant. 37600 block River Rd. Cited and released. Report taken.

1:32 p.m. - Crash reported in 36600 block Airport. Non-injury. Report taken.

MAY 14

SWEET HOME POLICE

2:23 a.m. - Crystal Marie Wiggins, 50, arrested on LCCC warrant for theft I. Cited and released. Police had responded to caller who reported being stuck in wheelchair and needing assistance, 1300 block 12th. She was given courtesy transport.

3:51 a.m. - Melissa Nicole Shreves, 39, arrested on LMC warrant for PV. 2200 block Larch. Cited and released.

11:00 a.m. - Caller reported dog barking "all day" in 1300 block Sunset Lane. Referred to code enforcement.

11:18 a.m. - Caller reported overgrown grass and dog barking "all day", 1900 block 37th Circle. Referred to code enforcement.

3:13 p.m. - Caller reported multiple code violations (unspecified in police log) in 1200 block 44th.

5:30 p.m. - Caller reported multiple items taken from residence in 4500 block Airport Lane while he was sleeping. Officer responded, report taken for theft I. Missing items include miscellaneous shoes and clothing valued at \$1,000, tools valued at \$150 and a treadmill valued at \$180.

5:33 p.m. - Caller from 400 block Juniper reported vehicle parked for over a week. Officer responded, vehicle posted for removal.

6:59 p.m. - Caller reported male yelling and trying to hit passing car, 1500 block Main. Officer contacted male, who

was upset at nearly being hit by vehicle. He was fine and headed home.

7:14 p.m. - Caller reported missing firearm, 1200 block Evergreen. Described as black S&W MP9, estimated value \$500. Report taken.

8:01 p.m. - Caller reported two dogs chasing children during baseball game, 1135 35th. Officer responded, dogs had returned home but owner was warned for dogs at large.

LEBANON POLICE

1:42 a.m. - Patron at Duffy's bar being disorderly, calling people names, pushing a male who then punched him. Patron spit blood in bartender's face. Walter Tarrats, 56, trespassed for one year.

6:35 a.m. - Nicklaus James Glasser, 36, cited for trespassing.

8:11 a.m. - Report taken for car spray-painted with red paint, 800 block Academy St.

8:26 a.m. - Caller reported juvenile boys riding motorcycles on sidewalks, darting in and out of traffic, 500 block Cascade Dr.

1:52 p.m. - Joseph Lee Shores, 54, cited on Benton County Circuit Court warrant for FTA - false info.

7:02 p.m. - Complaint about dirt bike riding on LBCC property.

8:29 p.m. - Caller reported neighbors - a mom and daughter - fighting. Officer noted the girls were both very loud talkers and could be mistaken for an argument.

9:17 p.m. - Megan Sue Elizabeth Lopez, 30, cited for DWS, DU. Car towed.

9:25 p.m. - Juveniles stole alcohol and butane from Lebanon Market. Loss: >\$100.

10:10 p.m. - Driver leads police on low speed chase, foot pursuit from Hiatt to C streets. Joey Eugene Tackitt, 44, arrested and cited for attempts to elude,

See Public Safety, Page 17

Fire alarm replacements top of priority list for Lebanon schools

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

During its meeting on May 14 following a discussion based on concerns about future budgetary cuts, the Lebanon Community School District awarded the pre-construction contract for the District Wide Fire Alarm Panel Project to New Certified Systems LLC in the amount of \$15,000.

COO Will Lewis estimated the cost over a five-year period to update 10 fire alarm panels at nine sites to be around \$1.6-\$2.1 million.

According to Lewis, the project "jumped" to number one on the priority list over the Christmas holiday.

"Obviously we have an enormous amount of deferred maintenance..." he said, "but this is one of those situations where if we don't have a fire alarm that's currently up to code, we have to close the school immediately until we fix that."

The contract up for approval at the meeting was specifically for work done at the first two sites, the first of which will be Pioneer Elementary.

"It is the school that has the most challenging fire alarm system right now," Lewis said. "A lot of false alarms, a lot of things going on out there, so we wanna make sure that we're taking care of that one first."

The second school might be perhaps Hamilton or Riverview.

Board member Mike Martin raised concerns about the total cost given current (and potential future) budget constraints, and ex-

pressed a desire to be able to pull out of any obligation on this project.

Lewis explained the board had previously approved a five-year project with a goal to replace two alarms per year at an average approximate cost of \$300,000. What was before the board on this day was a contract for the first two replacements. The district can, however, pull out of the five-year plan, if needed, as it has been written into the contracts.

Once the district replaces the first two systems, it will have the removed ones available as backup, in case another school's system fails. A failed system will shut a school down for months until it is fixed. With back up replacement parts, it will be easier to delay future replacements, if necessary.

The contract was approved 3-2; members Martin and Clyde Rood opposed.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the adoption of a new curriculum for Social Sciences for \$214,000. The curriculum is good for seven years.

- Approved the adoption of a new curriculum for Health for \$132,000. Meckley explained there are certain sections concerning human sexuality that parents can opt out of.

- Approved an alternative contracting method for Seven Oak's gym seismic upgrade project for Request for Qualifications and Invitation to Bid, allowing the district to pre-qualify four contractors for the project.

Commissioners approve two-year deal for space at Wodtli Quarry

Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker took care of the following business items at their May 12 board meeting:

Approved a two-year lease agreement with Bedrock Holdings Group for quarry space at the Wodtli Quarry near Sweet Home.

Linn County had an agreement with the previous owner and maintains an operating permit with the State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) for the site.

The new agreement allows the county to continue to stockpile aggregate and co-operation with the transfer of the DOGAMI permit. Cost of the lease is \$8,000 per year, plus the annual DOGAMI

permit fee of about \$2,300 plus \$0.03/ton of aggregate produced.

Authorized the closure of County Road 611 (Main Street in Scio) for portions of May 15, 16 and 17 for the annual Linn County Lamb and Wool Fair events.

Gave final approval for two Outdoor Assembly Permits, one for a pirate festival June 18-22 on Allen Lane south of Albany and one for a one-day hazel nut growers tour on a farm east of Albany.

Approved a contract for \$166,053 with Jesse Rodriguez Construction to repair broken paving, overlay pavement and lay new paving of camping spurs at Whispering Falls Campground near Detroit. This is a U.S. Forest Service campground managed

by the Linn County Parks and Recreation Department. The project will be paid for by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Opened bids for the Cox Creek (Waverly) Drive Bridge Project in Millersburg. Five bids ranged from \$2,285,740.51 to \$3,251,240. The bids will be reviewed by the Road Department staff and a recommendation will be brought back to the commissioners for final approval.

Approved the transfer of \$40,000 within the Law Enforcement Fund for the District Attorney's Office to cover contracted services and the transfer of \$18,000 within the Deflection Grant for the District Attorney's Office to cover an invoice provided by the Health Department.

SWEET HOME HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY PHOTOS

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BUDGET

From page 1

were expanded over the past year, and the district continues to seek grant funding for its programs.

Meckley reported that the district's unemployment liability, the legal obligation for employers to pay state and federal payroll taxes to fund temporary unemployment benefits for workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own, have risen "sharply" from \$39,641 three years ago to a projected \$250,000 in 2026-27.

Also, she said, insurance premiums have nearly doubled over four years, from \$463,838 to an estimated \$891,393. Lebanon schools' PERS liability has increased by \$2.65 million since 2023, reaching an estimated \$11 million for the upcoming year, she said.

The budget, Meckley said, includes an \$4.88 million (7.49%) ending fund balance, which is intended to cover "unexpected expenses, economic fluctuations or enrollment changes" without immediately disrupting student programs and staffing. Also, she added, a "healthy" EBT strengthens the district's financial credibility "and reduces the likelihood of more drastic budget reductions in future years."

The School Board on April 9 authorized staffing reductions that, Meckley said, have resulted in the elimination of 4.25 certified positions (with the potential for a fifth) and 12 classified positions, all but one, she said, of which are being reduced through attrition.

Two District Office administrative positions, Chief Operations Officer and Director of Communications, have also been eliminated.

Other reductions include cuts to nutrition services, capital projects, athletics and transportation, all, she said, intended to limit "impacts to students and staff while responsibly addressing the district's financial challenges."

She said the district is likely to continue to face financial challenges due to declining enrollment, "which will likely require further budget reductions next fiscal year," including more staff cuts. She explained that enrollment numbers dictate how much funding the district gets from the state: "Fewer students result in reduced revenue," as the district's costs rise.

She pledged that district staff will stay on top of changes and "we are committed to navigating these challenges with transparency, care, and supporting the success and well-being of every student we serve."

Student Enrollment Declining

Prososki reported that the district lost 99 students between Oct. 1, 2025 and May 11 of this year, down to 3,773

students in buildings, plus 101 online.

"Enrollment is declining at an accelerated pace," he said, adding that state funding of \$11,611 per student for the upcoming school year, multiplied by a reduction of approximately 200 students over the past year, "that's \$2.3 million, which is equivalent to what our reduction is for 2026-27."

He said that enrollment in state online virtual schools has risen 25%, from roughly 19,500 in 2024-25 to nearly 24,000 this year. Specifically, he noted that Baker Web, Fossil and Silvies, "which are well-known in our area," together increased by 70% from 2022-23 to 2025-26, from 5,051 to 8,574 students.

"This is a trend that we're continuing to see and it's accelerating for some reason," Prososki said.

Unemployment, Insurance and PERS

Prososki reported that Oregon SB 489, which expanded unemployment compensation parameters for classified staff, such as classroom aides, custodians and food service workers, in the state's school districts, has increased Lebanon's costs from \$8,270 in 2022-23 to \$130,107 this year, with \$250,000 proposed for the 2026-27 budget year, a nearly 3,000% increase.

He reported that property and liability insurance premiums have risen from \$390,270 in 2022-23 to \$761,656 this year, with \$892,093 proposed for 2026-27.

He said the district used to see "a larger gap" between actual PERS costs and what was budgeted - "up to \$1 million), because some employees, who came to the district from non-government jobs, would have to wait a period to qualify for PERS, which meant the district didn't have to pay until they did.

"What we're seeing now is more staff retention and most new staff coming in already qualify on Day 1 for PERS," Prososki said. "A lot of them are coming from another district. So that difference is shrinking.

PERS costs have risen from \$8,354,272 in 2022-23 to \$10,016,306 so far this year (\$10,671,705 is budgeted) and the proposal for 2026-27 is \$10,826,762.

"I think of utilizing those funds for new kids coming into our district that have needs that we need to support," Prososki said.

Ending Fund Balance

Prososki reported that the district is proposing a beginning fund balance of approximately \$8 million, which represents 12.27% of the total General Fund, which finances most day-to-day district operations and accounts for all financial resources that are not legally restricted or required to be accounted for in a separate fund.

The budget proposal includes the "one-time use"

\$3.12 million of the beginning balance funds to offset expenditures, leaving a \$4.88 million for 2026-27.

Prososki noted that "careful budget management" has resulted in the \$2 million in reductions the district is making for the upcoming fiscal year.

"Given these factors, I do not personally believe that there is additional capacity to further draw from the fund balance at this time," he told the committee.

The adjustments, which total \$1,514,000, include \$350,000 from the Textbook Fund, which has been built up over recent years and has enough for textbook purchases as needed this year, Prososki said, adding that adjustments to that fund will be made down the road. Other adjustments include:

- \$50,000 from Capital (facility construction and improvement projects) Fund,
- \$25,000 from the Athletic Fund. Prososki added that the district would need \$100,000 to maintain programs at the current level of services and coaching "with expenses continuing to increase each year."
- \$225,000 from the Bus Replacement Fund - "We're not buying any new buses this year," Prososki said, explaining that \$130,000 in leases the district is already contracted for will be funded from the General Fund.
- \$50,000 in reductions from the Food Services Fund, money which, he said, would have funded the remodeling of counters at Seven Oak Middle School, which may not happen or may be delayed.
- The district's debt service, which is \$114,039 this year, will be paid off on June 1 of this year, which is another savings, he said.

He reported that one addition is \$150,000 under the Unemployment Fund, which was not funded this year but Prososki expects will be necessary in the upcoming year.

Prososki noted that the district receives various grants that fund a wide variety of programs. Among those are Title I and II federal grants, which, he said, the district expects to be reduced by some \$115,000. Typically, he said, rather than cut programs, the district finds funding via other General Fund sources.

Proposed Cuts to Athletics

Prososki said he met with the athletic directors and principals from both the high school and middle school to figure out how to cut \$100,000 from the athletics budget for the upcoming year. The proposed reductions they came up with include:

- \$35,000 from middle school football;
- \$15,000 from middle school coach stipends;
- \$25,000 from high school

coach stipends; and

- Increasing athletics participation fees to add \$25,000 to get to the \$100,000.

"This is a big ask of the committee on how we want to handle that," he said.

Multiple committee members recalled how they missed football before it returned to Seven Oak within the past 10 years, though they acknowledged that Lebanon has to deal with transportation costs due to the distance between its league rivals.

Piland and others noted that there are two alternatives to middle school tackle football in Lebanon, Pop Warner and "club" league youth football.

Costs for those range from \$150 to \$350, plus transportation costs for parents to ferry their kids to games. Both offer scholarships, committee members noted.

Meckley said the district cost per middle school football player totals out to \$450 each.

Melissa Baurer said she was concerned that cutting football would reduce opportunities for students whose families may not be able to afford the youth football league prices.

"We don't have a lot to do for kids in Lebanon," she said, "and so this is taking one opportunity away from them."

She also said she didn't like increasing participation fees to \$250.

"Other districts are waiving fees; we're increasing them."

Piland observed that football gives kids incentive to attend school and keep their grades up.

Piland and Baurer both questioned the cutting of the girls basketball position and the dance assistant position, while cheer, which had 35 participants this year to 13 for dance, retains three coaching positions.

"They're keeping three coaches in cheer; dance is losing one coach. To me that's just not equitable. That's where my concern is," Baurer said.

Piland echoed her concerns. Meckley told the committee she was open to direction on what the funding priorities should be.

"If the committee and the board don't want to make the cuts in athletics, we'll have to find another lever to pull," she said, adding that may mean further reductions to the EFB or staffing cuts.

"I love athletics; kids need it," she said. "But then we're putting \$400,000 in capital projects. How do you balance that? How do you reconcile 'Well, I need to have money over here for this boiler and this roof and this fire alarm, and the community thinks we don't take care of our schools - let's just be honest, or do you take staff? It's a puzzle," she said with a mirthless laugh. "A big puzzle."

"If we want to pause on any reductions, we could do that,

and do them through the year," Meckley said. "We're just trying to find a way to have some sort of reining in of athletics. If we continue, this will be a million dollars the following year."

Rood suggested that the community could provide volunteer help or funding, citing his own experience as a youth track coach.

"People like me are willing to step in, fill gaps," he said, adding that he'd be willing to donate "out of my own pocket" to keep middle school students from paying higher fees.

At that point, it was time to begin the School Board meeting, so the budget meeting was adjourned to Thursday, May 21.

EVENTS

From page 5

Valley will be on display. The club is "warming up" for the big parade on June 2.

CHRISTMAS STORE BINGO AT SH LEGION

A bingo fundraiser for the 12th Annual Sweet Home Kids Free Christmas Store will be held from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 29, at the Timber City American Legion, 109 W. Holley Road, Sweet Home.

Four cards are \$20. Every bingo winner will receive a gift card from local businesses. There will be a concession stand and opportunity for drawings. All funds support the Annual Kids Free Christmas Store, where kids shop for free for their family. For more information, contact Nancy Patton at (541) 409-4276.

FIRE CHIEF TO SPEAK AT CHAMBER FORUM LUNCH

Lebanon Fire Chief John Tacy will speak at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce's Forum Lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, May 29, at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital conference center, 525 N. Santiam Hwy.

Tacy will speak on the state of LFD. Cost, which includes lunch, is \$23 for members, \$30 for future members. The event includes drawings for prizes, which can be donated by participants.

Register at www.lebanon-chamber.org or call (541) 258-7164.

FREE WILDFIRE DEFENSE WORKSHOP

Sweet Home Fire will host a free half-day workshop from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, at Sankey Park in Sweet Home.

As part of SHFAD's "Wildfire Ready Linn County" project, local fire professionals will teach residents what they can do to prepare their homes and families for wildfires. It will include discussion topics such as home hardening, defensible space around your home and evacuation preparedness, and will conclude with a hot

See Events, Page 18

SH School Board members discuss transparency in meeting minutes

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Comments made by former school administrator Luke Augsburger at the Sweet Home School Board meeting on Monday, May 11, prompted an extended two-part discussion of “transparency” and what happens during public comment.

Augsburger, who resigned as a Sweet Home High School vice principal in February to take a job at his alma mater, Western Governors University, has been a regular attendee at board meetings in succeeding months.

On May 11 he reminded board members of conduct standards in their policy manual.

Those included respecting other board members’ differing opinions and ideas, making decisions only after facts have been presented and discussed, respecting the public’s right to attend and observe board meetings, and the right of the public to be informed they are legally entitled to know about what’s happening in the school district, and being open, fair and honest – “no hidden agendas.”

“Transparency has been disregarded,” Augsburger said. “For the past two months we have had opportunities to correct the issue that have gone undone.”

He noted that meeting minutes approved by the board from the previous two months lacked “direct quotes” of comments made by board members, and suggested that the board “look

into that.”

Also, he said, some members of the public lack access to YouTube recordings of meetings “or the recordings are a little bit muddy.”

He noted that the standards of conduct have been approved by previous boards, as well as the current members.

He also challenged the board “to return to a focus on students and we need to measure what is important – literacy rates, grad rates, those types of measurements.”

Board Member Mary Speck said she has had a “real challenging” time finding YouTube recordings of school board meetings.

“It would be wonderful if we could have easy access from our home page,” she said. “When I tried to access it from our home page, it took me to one from about 10 years ago. And it doesn’t list the current ones.”

“I hear that,” Chair Mike Adams said. “This last one, I had a hard time finding. I finally found it. Most of them are on the Sweet Home School District page with YouTube, if you search hard enough.”

“But it doesn’t put them in the right order,” Board Member Rachel Maynard said, to which Adams agreed.

Later in the meeting, Speck raised concerns about “transparency” in the meeting minutes, as board members readied to vote on a motion to approve the consent agenda, which typically include the minutes from the last meeting.

“The words that are com-

ing into my mind when it comes to the minutes are that we have nothing to fear even though we have to be accountable for our actions,” Speck said. “If anyone from the public makes a comment that might be something that causes us to think about our performance, that should not be hidden.”

She referenced public comments made by Robert Egner at the April board meeting that challenged the board.

She noted that the minutes being presented for approval on May 11 did not include a response from Maynard regarding Egner’s comments.

(Both Egner’s and Maynard’s comments were difficult to hear from where a reporter sat in the audience section of the room, and were unintelligible in the YouTube recording of the meeting, which the reporter checked later. The reporter privately communicated concerns about that to school officials. The sound quality was significantly improved at the May meeting.)

Speck also noted that comments from Adams criticizing public comments and board members’ comments were not included in the minutes.

Speck said she didn’t feel she could approve the consent agenda with the minutes lacking those details.

Adams suggested that she could pull the minutes off the consent agenda and deal with it separately.

Speck made that motion,

which was seconded by Maynard.

Board Member Dustin Nichol asked if the minutes should be “word for word” what was said in the meeting or simply an “abbreviation” of comments made.

Board Clerk Julie Emmert, who prepares the minutes, said that they are not legally required to be such but should summarize what was said, though motions and actions taken by the board must be accurately worded.

“I try to transcribe,” she said, adding that if people planning to speak were to give her a summary of their points ahead of time, “That would be super helpful to me.”

She also said that board members are welcome to let her know if “something isn’t right” when the agenda packet is given to them ahead of time.

“I would love for you to tell me that,” she said.

Board members acknowledged that Maynard’s and Egner’s comments at the April meeting were, as Maynard and Adams both put it, “hard to hear.”

Speck acknowledged that “I don’t think I’ve really read (the minutes) with the eye that I should.”

She suggested that people

making public comments could give Emmert a copy of their statement when they are finished.

“I think that’s a really, really good idea,” Emmert said.

Board members voted 7-2 against pulling the minutes off, with Maynard and Speck dissenting. Jenna Northern and Amanda Carter participated remotely.

They then voted 8-1, with Maynard the “no” vote, to approve the minutes.

Graduation Rate Report

Board members heard a report from Sweet Home High School Principal Ralph Brown on the school’s graduation rates, which prompted comments about how CTE programs at the school have led to students graduating who otherwise might not.

Brown prefaced his remarks with a report on the school’s Unified CTE Day, held May 7, which included special-needs students from several area high schools.

“A lot of these schools don’t have those programs,” Brown said.

He said that Sweet Home High School has a tradition of accommodating needy students, citing an example that occurred before his arrival at SHHS in 2015,

See School Board, Page 10

Suspected weapon prompts lockdown at SHHS

Sweet Home High School was locked down Friday morning, May 15, after school staff reported to police that a student may have brought a firearm onto campus.

According to Sweet Home police, the incident began about 8 a.m. after a student reported seeing another student on the bus with a firearm in the other student’s waistband, according to police reports. Officers responded to the school, which was placed on lockdown.

Officers and staff were able to locate the juvenile in class, but no suspicious items were immediately found.

The incident delayed the start of the school’s May Week assembly, which includes the crowning of the May Court king and queen and competitions between the various student classes, which culminate in the annual May Week Track Meet in the afternoon, after students perform community services activities around town. After about a half-hour delay, the school was released to resume normal operations.



Students shoot hoops in the Sweet Home High School Main Gym Friday, May 15, after being locked down as they waited for the start of the May Week Assembly.

– Photo by Scott Swanson

According to police, “further investigation, as well as cooperation from other students” helped officers locate the item that was brought to school, which was off-campus but nearby. It turned out to be a “realistic looking” air-soft style pistol (essentially a toy that uses air to propel plastic BB’s), police said.

The Sweet Home School District is addressing the issue with the student and their family at this time. If anyone

has information that may be helpful to this case, we encourage you to contact the investigating officer to have the information added to the investigation.

Senior Officer Sean Potter is the primary investigator on this case, and can be reached by calling the non-emergency line at (541) 367-5181. Case number for reference is 202603313.

– Staff Reports

Upcoming City Meetings

These are regularly-scheduled meetings. Sometimes the dates or times are changed due to schedule conflicts among members, work session additions, holidays, etc. Last minute changes do occur at times. Please check the governing board’s website for updated information and agendas.

Sweet Home City Council: Tue., May 26, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Brownsville City Council: Tue., May 26, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 255 N Main St.

PIE Charter School Board: Mon., June 1, 6 p.m., at Sand Ridge Charter School, 100 Sand Ridge Ct., Lebanon.

Sweet Home Planning Commission: Thur., June 4, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Central Linn School Board: Mon., June 8, 6 p.m., at Conference Room, 239 W 2nd St., Halsey.

Sweet Home School Board: Mon., June 8, 6:30 p.m., at 1920 Long St.

Lebanon Fire District: Tues., June 9, 5:30 p.m., at 1050 W. Oak St.

Sweet Home City Council: Tues., June 9, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Waterloo City Council: Tues., June 9, 7 p.m., at 31140 1st St.

Halsey City Council: Tues., June 9, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 100 Halsey St.

Lebanon City Council: Wed., June 10, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Lebanon School Board: Thur., June 11, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Lebanon Aquatic District: Mon., June 15, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Pool, 1800 S 5th St.

Sweet Home Fire Board: Tue., June 16, 6:30 p.m., at 1099 Long St.

Brownsville Fire Board: Tue., June 16, 6:30 p.m., at 600 E Blakely.

Sweet Home Park & Tree Committee: Wed., June 17, 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Lebanon Parks, Trees & Trails: Wed., June 17, 2 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Lebanon Planning Commission: Wed., June 17, 6 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy

Sweet Home Planning Commission: Thur., June 18, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Sodaville City Council: Thur., June 18, 7 p.m. at City Hall, 30723 Sodaville Road.

SCHOOL BOARD

From page 9

when Nichol, now a board member, taught woodshop at the high school and had a student with a disability involving his hands that prevented him from participating in woodshop.

"They made him some special gloves and tools so he could participate in woodshop," Brown said. "So the stuff that we're doing now is nothing new. It's stuff that people did in the past."

The Unified CTE Day was special nonetheless, he said, adding that visiting students made toolboxes in the woodshop, created flower hangers in the metal shop, got to try axe throwing in the forestry team's practice facility, and more.

Getting down to the graduation rates, Brown noted that a decade ago graduation rates at the high school hovered around 70%.

He credited "our great team, great staff" at the high school for improving those numbers to 88% last year, three points over the state average. That was up from 80.98% in 2024 and 78.0% in 2023, both slightly below the state average.

"With graduation rates, there's always some ebb and flow," Brown said.

He reported that when last year's graduating class were ninth-graders at the high school, 85% of them were on track to graduate on time.

"The reason why Ninth Grade on Track is so important is it's a clear indicator," he said, adding that students who complete their freshman year with the correct number of credits (six

or more) have a much higher chance of graduating in four years.

He noted that for the Class of 2024, who were freshmen during the COVID year of 2020, only 68% were on track as ninth-graders. For the Class of 2023, 74% were on track.

Sweet Home's graduation rate for students categorized as living in poverty, 84% in 2025, was far above the state's overall poverty graduation rate of 71%.

Brown said he is "really proud" of the 79% graduation rate last year for students who were homeless, who lack "a steady place to live."

Responding to questions from board members, Brown said that the school matches struggling students with "champions" who can offer peer support, and that his staff watches ninth- and 10th-graders' progress closely to identify those who need help.

"Every year is a battle, though," he said, adding that he currently has seniors who are "going crazy" and whom the staff is just trying to help to the finish line.

"The social, emotional struggles that our kids have are real, and our counselors are dealing with that right now," Brown said. "There's kids that I haven't had problems with in four years and there's some issues now. There's a lot of struggles, but I have the best team in the entire world."

In response to a board question he said he wasn't sure what the exact numbers are for this year's graduation rate, but that the school has had 26 early grads thus far, some of which would otherwise be



Sweet Home School District's ESPY winners for May include, in front, from left, Wren Riggs of Hawthorne Elementary, Adalynn McKinney of Oak Heights Elementary, and Kennedy Korrington of Hawthorne. In the second row, from left, are Elijah Cruz of Sweet Home High School, Elise Strong of Holley Elementary, Colton Johnson of Foster Elementary, Conner Johnson of Foster, and Rylee Reed of Sweet Home Charter School. In the rear are Hattie Gay of Sweet Home Junior High and Ryker Huenergart, also of the Junior High.

part of this year's junior class, whose ninth-grade classmates will graduate next year.

"Some (schools) won't let their students finish early because of a number of reasons," Brown said. "But if we put the brakes on those kids, we may lose them. We hate losing kids. Every kid in my career that I've lost, those are the ones that I remember."

He said the school also gets transfer and fifth-year

students.

"They come from somewhere else and they've been unsuccessful," he said. "My team is able to get them through."

Nichol spoke up, recalling that when he was a teacher "85 to 90 percent of the students participating in the CTE programs graduated."

"With Ralph doing this thing for the special-needs kids, and at one time our district kept woods and metals and auto when everybody else got rid of it. They've added FFA and forestry the last seven or eight years.

"So when other people were cutting, this district and this board saw the need for a CTE program to keep our knuckle-draggers in school. I think it's a tribute to the administration," he added, gesturing toward Supt. Terry Martin.

Brown noted that Nichol founded what became the current forestry program, with then-Supt. Tom Yahres, right about the time Brown arrived.

"He won't say this about himself, but him taking the lead on getting that forestry teacher was huge," Brown said.

In other action the board:

- Following an executive session, voted unanimously, with Northern and Amanda Carter not present, to not pursue a complaint made against Martin due to "unsubstantiated facts."

- Approved the hiring of Tomas Rosa as athletic director at Sweet Home High School, effective Aug. 31.
- Approved the hiring of

Stephanie Rabago as assistant principal at SHHS, effective Aug. 1.

- Approved the hiring of Kai Schlegelmann as elementary teacher at Hawthorne Elementary effective Aug. 31.

- Approved the hiring of Megan Taylor as fifth grade teacher at Foster Elementary, effective Aug. 31.

- Approved the hiring of Ashely Duffitt as second grade teacher at Foster, effective Aug. 31.

- Approved the hiring of Jessalynn Weigant as first-second grade blend teacher at Foster, effective Aug. 31.

- Approved the hiring of Elias Stuckart as science teacher at SHHS.

- Accepted the resignation of Sommer Edmonds, third grade teacher at Oak Heights Elementary, effective June 30.

- Accepted the resignation of Deanna Neuschwander, first grade teacher at Foster, effective June 30.

- Accepted the resignation of Gillian Coplin, second grade teacher at Oak Heights, effective June 30.

- Accepted the retirement of Cathy Brands-Hawken, special education teacher at Sweet Home Junior High School, effective July 1.

- Accepted the resignation of Laura McCaffrey, first grade teacher at Hawthorne, effective June 30.

- Approved an out-of-state trip by the Josai Club to Tokyo, Japan, June 12-25.

- Approved out-of-state trip by SHHS FFA members to Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 23-31, 2027.

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We truly appreciate our readers and our businesses alike. Your support means the world to us! Thank you for being part of this journey.

Scott & Miriam Swanson and The New Era Staff

SH BASEBALL

From page 5

this series as a learning experience and focus on their toughest opponent in league, Stayton, this week.

The Eagles are ranked seventh in the state and sit atop the league. Wednesday, May 20, will be Sweet Home's Senior Night.

SH softball hoping for play-in game

Sweet Home softball suffered a tough loss to No. 6 Cascade on Thursday, May 14, after dominating Philomath 14-1 the day before to officially secure third place in league standings.

Coming off a 6-1 loss on the road at Stayton on Monday, May 11, the Huskies quickly responded by defeating Philomath 14-1 to clinch third place in league.

Sweet Home managed only six hits against the Warriors, but took advantage of aggressive baserunning and Philomath errors to score 14 runs. Addy Vannice led the Huskies with a game-high three RBIs.

Katriona "Peanut" Harris was dominant in the circle, allowing just one hit while striking out the Warriors lineup. She walked three batters, with one run scoring.

"Pitching is the first line of defense, so it definitely helps keep the team's morale up when she is pitching well," said Coach Emily Marchbanks, who spent most of her high school and college career in that position.

The Huskies battled with the No. 6-ranked Cougars on Thursday, but a seven-run fourth inning proved costly in a 10-7 loss. Despite the defeat, Sweet Home out-hit Cascade 11-7 at the plate.

"The last few games the girls have come out with a lot of fire offensively and worked

See SH Softball, Page 15

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Warrior boys break into second round in MWC tennis

Lebanon's boys finished their tennis season at the Mid-Willamette Conference championships, with two doubles teams making the second round of the tournament.

Nick McLoed and Abram Fitchett, both sophomores, beat South Albany's Hayden Trudell and Talmage Dennett 6-4, 6-4 in the second round after a first-round bye, then lost 6-0, 6-1 to No. 1 seeds Grae Koller and Michael Greschner of Corvallis in the third.

Also in doubles competition, seniors Ryan Robinson and Hunter Jacobsen beat Dallas' Charlie Moes and Lucas Boyechko of Dallas 6-3, 6-2 in the first round, then downed Carter Ly and Guillermo Arriola Rosales of McKay 6-3, 6-2 before falling 7-5, 6-2 to Shane Ong and Jason Ong of Crescent Valley, who were seeded sixth.

Seniors Landyn Whitney

and Silas Fitchett fell 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 to Sam Bladon and CJ Niedermeyer of Crescent Valley.

Joshua Allydice and Benjamin Klinger, both sophomores, fell 6-3, 6-2 to Kyan Suttle and Brayden Smith of McKay.

In singles, junior Micah Zderad beat Gage Penselin of West Albany 6-4, 6-0 in the first round, then lost to Nathan Power of Crescent Valley 6-2, 6-1 in the second.

Junior Daniel Doerzapf beat Silverton's Noah Starrs 6-2, 6-1 in the first round, then fell to Keven Montes of South Albany 6-0, 6-4 in the second.

Also in singles, sophomore Kady Hall lost 6-1, 6-1 to Giovanni De Jesus of Woodburn in the second round after a first-round bye.

Freshman Colton Parrish fell 6-0, 6-0 to Kellen Reeve of Corvallis in the first round.



Lebanon's Landyn Whitney returns a shot during the boys tennis championships. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com. - Cole Harner photo

Alison Frey leads Warriors in MWC tennis districts

Lebanon's girls competed last week in the Mid-Willamette Conference districts, with Alison Frey reaching the quarterfinals before being eliminated.

Frey, a junior, beat South Albany's Adeline Winter 6-3, 6-3 in the second round after a first-round bye, Callie Bennett of Corvallis 6-1, 6-4 in the third, then fell 6-4, 6-2 to Leah Trinidad of Crescent Valley in the quarterfinals.

Senior Haley Destowet beat Olive Doeliinger of Central 6-2, 6-3 in the second round after a first-round bye, then fell to No. 2-seed Yixin "Suzie" Liu of Crescent Valley 6-0, 6-0 in the third round.

"Overall, all the girls played really well," Coach Endya

Robinson said. "Alison and Hailey were both placed up against girls from Crescent Valley and they still gave it their all and played hard throughout their whole matches."

In doubles, Greta Abbott and Daniela Sanchez-Guzman, both seniors, beat Emilee Esparz and Vanessa Cortes of Woodburn 6-3, 6-1 in the second round after a first-round bye, then fell 6-1, 6-1 to Molly Arnett and Kaydence Fletcher of West Albany.

"Daniela and Greta also were up against the No. 2 seed and were still able to battle against them and get a few games," Robinson noted.

In singles, senior Anne Workman fell 6-1, 6-1 to

Silverton's Diane Gonzalez-Campos in the first round.

Senior Gwyn Wheeler lost to Woodburn's Yuleni Rubio Lopez 6-3, 6-4 after a first-round bye.

Senior Jane Gonzalez and freshman Sophia Vo fell in doubles to Payton Taylor and Kara Stucky of Silverton 6-1, 6-0 in the first round.

Brooklyn Davis and Emma Wright, both sophomores, fell to Ameyalli Carlos and Alyssa Garibaldo of Woodburn 6-3, 7-5 in the first round.

Valeria Ortiz and Kadence Volkens, both sophomores, fell 6-2, 6-3 to Betzy Trapala and Azule N. Nvila Cortez of Woodburn in the second round after a first-round bye.



Haley Destowet competes in the district tennis championships. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com. - Cole Harner photo

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East Linn girls continue massive softball turnaround

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

East Linn Christian's softball team finished its regular season with a sweep by No. 3 Regis, which won three mercy-rule victories over the Eagles last week.

It was a rough week for ELCA, facing a perennial top finisher at state who, Coach Angie Kropf expects, "will be in the state semis or finals."

All three games ended via mercy rule - 15-0 at home on Tuesday, May 12, and then 10-0 and 15-0 in a doubleheader Thursday on the Rams' home field.

But the Eagles finished the regular season in third place in District 2, with a 13-8 league record and 16-9 overall, a big improvement in their third year as a high school team over last year (2-13, 6-18).

"We really have had a major turnaround," Kropf said, noting that some of her team had not played softball prior to the school establishing the program.

Since then, she's gotten freshmen who gained experience as middle-schoolers and have "stepped up" in the infield, and her veterans who have made strides.

"They are learning the game better and they've refined their skills," Kropf said. "We have really become quite the defensive team. We're known for that."

Hitting is still coming along, she said, although the Eagles have hitters who can produce at the plate. And although East Linn's Macy Rehnberg, a senior, and junior Liv Kropf can consistently throw strikes from the pitcher's circle, they haven't been pitching for years and lack the velocity that other teams have, Angie Kropf said. "People hit the ball off our

pitchers, but our team is very good about defense, getting outs. It's really fun to see the whole team working together."

Josi Davidson and Eva Pimm produced the two hits against Regis in the Tuesday game. Pimm and Abby Mitchell both had a hit each in Game 2 of the series, before the Eagles delivered five hits in the second game Thursday, one each from Abby Mitchell, who hit a double, Pimm, Madison Adams, Rehnberg and Ava Mitchell.

But they couldn't put together an offensive sequence to bring a runner home.

Regis pounded Liv Kropf for 34 hits, including five home runs, three triples and 14 doubles in the doubleheader.

Eagles beat Crow to end baseball season

East Linn's baseball team went 0-3 against Regis, losing 14-3 at home on Tuesday, May 12, and 12-1 and 11-1 on the road Thursday.

The Eagles, who finished fifth in Division 2, finished their season with a 13-7 nonleague win at Waldport. They also hosted Crow on Wednesday, May 13, escaping with a 13-12 win.

That left ELCA 6-15 and in sixth place in Division 2, and 10-15 overall.

At home Friday, May 15, against Waldport, ELCA totaled eight hits, two each from Asher Taylor and Chase Fenerly, who had a double, and also got doubles from Jesse Younger and Noah Medellin.

Casey May pitched five innings, leaving with an 11-2 lead, and Younger and Isaiah Blount held the Fighting Irish to five runs in the final two frames as the visitors tried to make a comeback.

Against No. 5 Regis, the Rams jumped out to big leads by mid-game in each contest,



and East Linn was unable to bounce back.

the Eagles were not unproductive at the plate, totaling 12 hits, but they also finished with 14 errors over the course of the three games, while Regis finished with 24 hits, including two home runs, three triples and five doubles, that combination accounting largely for the scoring difference.

At home against Crow Wednesday, East Linn jumped out to a 5-1 lead, then added four more runs by the bottom of the fifth.

But in the top of the sixth, the Cougars erupted with 10 runs to take a 12-9 lead. But the Eagles responded in the bottom of the inning, thanks largely to errors by the visitors, to score four and win the game.

East Linn first baseman Eva Pimm, above, puts the tag on a Regis runner. Below, catcher Meeya Rehnberg goes after a foul tip. See more game photos at sweethomenews.com and lebanonlocalnews.com.
- Photos by Scott Swanson



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Celebrating their state-qualifying finish in the district golf tournament are, from left, Coach Eric Tagle, Evan Malabago, Trent Harvey, Lynkin Royer, Blayne Schuster, Henry Gainer and Coach Ron Moore. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.
- Julie Harvey photo

SH boys make state in golf

Trent Harvey led the Sweet Home boys to qualification for their first state tournament since 2018 Monday and Tuesday, May 11-12, at Tokatee Golf Club in Blue River.

The Huskies shot a two-day team score of 353-341-694 to place second in the Oregon West District Championship behind Cascade (329-332-661).

Harvey, junior, shot 85-78-163 to place second overall in the tournament, which would have qualified him as an individual for state if the team had not qualified.

But they did, with sophomore Evan Malabago, new to high school golf, finishing

with 88-87-175 and sophomore Henry Gainer shooting 96-81-177.

Senior Lynkin Royer, also a high school golf rookie, finished with 88-95-183 and sophomore Blayne Schuster finished with 92-97-189.

North Marion was third (380-356-736), Stayton was fourth (392-367-759), Newport fifth (393-386-779) and Philomath was sixth (428-437-865).

The state tournament runs Monday and Tuesday of this week, May 18-19, at the Emerald Valley Golf Club in Creswell.

Seaside returns as the defending state champion af-

ter defeating Marist 640-647 last year. The Seagulls are led by senior Xanh Quang, who placed third last year and is the leading 4A scorer this season at .30 under par, well ahead of Elias Long of Baker/Powder Valley (2.10 over) and Madras senior Tate Alire (3.81 over), although Alire's 75 was the lowest score in the Oregon 4A district tournaments.

Pendleton/Griswold (30.38-over), Marist Catholic (32.13-over) and Cascade (40.92-over) had the best team scoring averages going into Monday.

- Jerry Ulmer of OSAAToday contributed to this article

After slow districts start, Warriors' Miller just misses state golf berth

Lebanon junior Sierra Miller finished 14th as an individual in the District 2 regional girls golf tournament held Monday and Tuesday, May 11-12, at Mallard Creek, just missing a trip to state.

Miller, who was the only Warrior girl to qualify for the regional, struggled on Day 1, finishing with an uncharacteristically high 110, before shooting 90 on Day 2 to finish with an overall score of 200.

She was one of two individual qualifiers, along with Woodburn's Emma Puente, who finished third (94-91-185) for the tournament.

Coach Bart Baldwin noted that Miller was the first player to tee off on Day 1.

"There were some nerves and she had a tough first nine holes," he said. "Then she bounced back and played really well."

"She played so well she raced back up the leaderboard and missed qualifying for state by one stroke."

Crater won the event, shooting 377-369-746, ahead



Sierra Miller tees off during the Mid-Willamette Conference golf championship last week.
- Photo by Scott Swanson

of the Mid-Willamette Conference's Silverton (418-391-809), West Albany (418-398-816) and Corvallis (410-409-819). The Comets' Halle Shore was the individual champion (85-82-167).

The Warriors' Sam Tunstill did not compete in the boys tournament, also held May 11-22 at Mallard Creek,

but he plays this week in the 5A Boys State Tournament Monday and Tuesday, May 18-19, at Tokatee Golf Club in Blue River. Tunstill was chosen as one of the MWC's individual representatives in the state tournament after the Warriors missed qualifying for the boys district regionals as a team.



Lebanon city workers set out trees for planting at Academy Square, next to Lebanon Library on Tuesday, May 12. The trees were paid for by a grant from the American Forests-



Living History at Cheadle

Civil War Living History returned to Cheadle Lake Park this weekend, providing students and the community a glimpse into daily life for those who fought during the Civil War. Friday was reserved as a special day for students to participate in interactive history lessons and demonstrations. Above, students take an opportunity for a photo. Reenactments of battles and skirmishes took place for the general public on Saturday and Sunday. Hosted by the Northwest Civil War Council, the annual event provided an immersive storytelling adventure and educational opportunity. For more photos, visit lebanonlocalnews.com.

- Photo by Sarah Brown



The Lebanon High School Musical Theatre presented its Spring musical, "Tuck Everlasting," last weekend in the school's auditorium. The fantasy follows young Winnie Foster who discovers a family that lives forever after drinking from a spring, and must decide whether to drink from the spring herself, or live a natural life. Above, Winnie Foster (Sami Lovely), left, and Jesse Tuck (Van Magnie) sing a duet, "Partner in Crime." The play was directed by Katie Carleski and Emma Christensen. Choreographers were Eva Phillips, Syian Phillips and Aether North, with dance captains North and Callie Steinhebel. Stage managers Isabella Milam and Jaide Andersen. For more photos, visit lebanonlocalnews.com.

Warriors baseball, softball both go 2-1 last week

By Mike Warner
For The New Era

Going into the last two games of their season, Lebanon's baseball and softball teams were positioned at sixth and seventh, respectively, in the Mid-Willamette Conference standings after both finishing last week 2-1.

Lebanon entered this week in seventh place (8-8, 10-15) in baseball and sixth in softball (4-8, 7-15) in the Mid-Willamette Conference, which leaves the Warriors hoping for a sweep of their last two games this week in softball and that Central and South Albany, tied for the final MWC automatic playoff berth at 6-6, have a bad week. Lebanon hosts the Redhawks Thursday in their final regular-season game.

Baseball

The Warriors played three games last week winning two and losing one.

They traveled to West Albany on Monday, winning 5-3, then faced Silverton in a home-and-home on Wednesday and Friday, winning 2-1 on Wednesday before losing 12-8 on Friday.

In Monday's game, the Warriors bounced back from a 3-2 loss to the Bulldogs the previous Friday, combining timely hitting and quality pitching.

Lebanon had eight hits to the Bulldogs' five.

Jaidyn Von Ruden led the hit parade, going 4-4r with

two RBIs. Trey Enright was 2-4 with a double and an RBI, while Preston Bryan held the Bulldogs to just five hits and three earned runs on the mound. He struck out five. Jaidyn Von Ruden came in to record the last out.

Silverton came to town on Wednesday for what turned out to be a hard-fought defensive battle. The Warriors only recorded three hits to Silverton's four but they were enough to score single runs in the second and third innings.

Silverton was only able to plate a single run in the third. That was it. No more scoring the remainder of the game. Trenton Lewis was sterling once again on the mound, allowing only four hits and striking out 11.

Friday, the Warriors played their rematch with Silverton. This was a considerably different game. Both teams packed the wood.

The Warriors had 12 hits, leading to seven RBI. Nine Warriors recorded at least one hit.

Cohen Vandiver banged a triple and Austin Turnidge and Preston Bryan each recorded doubles. The Foxes only had eight hits but were able to score 12 runs. Eight walks and two Lebanon errors worked in Silverton's favor. Lebanon pitched by committee as five different Warriors took the mound.

The regular season is coming to a close with two games

remaining. They finish the year with a home and home with Crescent Valley on Monday and Thursday.

Softball

Against West Albany Monday, May 11, Lebanon faced second-place West Albany Bulldogs and lost 14-2.

The Warriors resurrected their game against Crescent Valley on Wednesday, winning 19-9. They finished off the week on Friday with a commanding win over third-place Silverton, 14-9.

Against West Albany, the final score doesn't really tell the whole story. The game was close until the sixth inning with the Bulldogs leading only 2-0. West exploded with 12 runs in the top of the sixth inning.

Lebanon was able to muster two runs in the bottom of the inning but their fate

was sealed. The Warriors held West to only seven hits but managed only two themselves. Nine Albany walks and five Lebanon errors accounted for the loss.

The Warriors were a new team against Crescent Valley. They recorded 19 hits and scored in every inning but one to record the rout.

Eight Warriors recorded at least one hit. Seven Warriors recorded at least one RBI.

Scarlett French went 4 for 5 with a home run and five RBIs. Hailey Myers and Anastazia Marshall each went 3-6, Marshall finishing with a triple and a double. Taelyn Whitney had a double and two RBIs.

Lebanon's pitching and defense was not sterling, but the offense carried the day.

On Friday, the Warriors hosted the Foxes. The game

was back and forth, with the teams exchanging leads for the first four innings.

Lebanon took control in the fifth, scoring three runs and four more in the sixth. Silverton was only able to tally one run in the final two innings giving Lebanon the win.

Once again, Lebanon's offense took command, scoring in every inning but one.

French and Majestah Nida both finished 3-4. Nida recorded six RBIs and French recorded five. Both recorded home runs and Nida added a double.

Bristol Hockema went the entire way in the circle.

This week, the Warriors have two games remaining to end league play. They travel to league-leading Dallas on Monday and host South Albany on Thursday.

ELCA's Knurowski wins district golf title with two-over score

Grady Knurowski won the individual district title and East Linn Christian's boys finished second in the Special District 2 golf championship Monday and Tuesday, May 11-12, at Salishan in Gleneden Beach.

The Eagles shot 344-349-693 to finish behind Blanchet Catholic, which came away with a 331-333-664.

Knurowski, a sophomore, shot a 2-over 75-73-148 to place ahead of Salem Academy's Finn Dunn, also a sophomore (77-83-160) and Santiam Christian senior Brendan Fitzpatrick (77-85-162).

"Our guys battled through two rounds at a tough course at Salishan," Coach Jayce Boyd said. "Grady really managed his game well and minimized

the impact his mistakes had on his score. He won by 12, which was surprising, and showed just how good of a test everybody had."

Rounding out the Eagles' scoring were Liam Medford, who shot 90-88-178 to finish 15th, Parker Caddick (92-93-185) and Dailey Kirkpatrick (87-98-185), who tied for 20th, and Anderson Kropf, who was 35th with 97-95-192. All are sophomores.

"Liam broke 90 for the first time this season with an 88 on Day 2," Boyd said. "Dailey had one of his better rounds of the year with an 87 on Day 1, and had a lot of potential in his second round."

"Anderson and Parker both showed a lot of grit on Day 1, when they both made close to

10 stroke improvements from the front nine to the back."

Pleasant Hill was third (349-346-695), Regis was fourth (355-349-704) and Santiam Christian was fifth (357-359-716).

"With us only beating Pleasant Hill by two strokes over two days, it really illustrates how much every shot matters," Boyd added.

East Linn plays this week on Monday and Tuesday, May 18-19, in the OSAA 3A/2A/1A state tournament at Tokatee Golf Club in Blue River.

Bandon, which won the team title by 49 strokes last year, is going for a threepeat, led by returning juniors Sevren Quinn and Braedon Millhouser, who tied for sixth last year.

SH SOFTBALL

From page 11

toward getting and keeping the momentum during the games. They are doing a great job," Marchbanks said.

Sweet Home's offense continued to show improvement throughout the game.

"In general, we have been hitting better as the season has progressed and I think that also helps up defensively stay stronger because there isn't as much pressure," Marchbanks said.

Taylee Rosa led the Huskies with three runs scored while Annabelle Morris added two runs and led the team with three hits, including a double. Harris pitched the complete game in the circle.

The difference came on defense, as Sweet Home committed seven errors.

"We had several errors that spiraled into more runs, but I am proud that our team responded in the following innings by staying strong and fighting back," Marchbanks said.

As the postseason approaches, Marchbanks said the focus remains simple.

"We just need to keep focusing on controlling what we can and having quality at-bats."

The Huskies are third in

league and are hoping to stay ranked high enough to get a play-in game. They are currently No. 17 in the state. Sweet Home plays Newport Monday, May 18. Then an away game against North Marion before ending their season with senior night against No. 10 Stayton.



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Huskies tune up for track districts with wins over Cascade

Sweet Home's boys and girls both scored wins over visiting Cascade in the Huskies' final home meet, the boys outscoring the Cougars 80.5 to 58 and the girls winning 70.5 to 67.

It was a big day for Sweet Home in terms of personal bests: 35 for the boys and 17 for the girls.

Dillan Davis posted personal bests in the 100 (11.33) and the 200 (22.69) to win both, with other wins on the track coming from Brayden Driver in the 800 (2:11.54, a PR), Evan Knight in the 1500 (4:37.42, a PR), Nick Larson in the 110 hurdles (16.39, a PR) and the 4x100 team of Landon Murry, Sam Barringer, Davis and Driver, who clocked 43.68, a season's best of nearly 2 seconds.

In the field, Gavin Tyler won the shot (50-6), sophomore Ean Tackett the javelin (145-8), Larson the pole vault (11-9, a PR), sophomore Mason Tyler the long jump (20-4, a PR

and Tyler's first time over 20 feet in competition), and Barringer, also a sophomore, finished on top in the triple jump (37-5).

Winners for Sweet Home girls were Loralai Mark in the 100 (13.43), McKenzie Miller in the 800 (2:28.64), Amara Gonzales in the 300 hurdles (54.67) and the triple jump (30-1½), Cassie Spencer in the pole vault (7-6), and Selah Wright in the shot (32-7½) and the javelin (99-5).

Although the girls 4x100 of Brooke Elder, Pratt, Jayla Moore and Mark finished second, their time of 52.37 was a 1½-second improvement for Sweet Home this season in that event.

Oregon West District Outlook

Going into the district meet this Friday and Saturday at Stayton, the Huskies have reason to be optimistic they can compete for their first boys district championship since

2010.

As of this week, Sweet Home has at least two boys ranked in the top four in all three sprints - led by Davis, ranked first in the 200 and 400, plus the top district ranking in both relays.

Ryker Burr is ranked second in the 800, though he has yet to run the 2:02 personal best he clocked last year at state.

Larson is ranked third - by a 100th of a second in the 110 hurdles after the Cascade meet, and fourth in the 300, in which the top four are literally separated by four-tenths of a second - it's anybody's race.

In the field, Tyler is ranked second by 10 inches in the shot, and Larson is second in the pole vault by three inches after his PR. Barringer is third in the triple jump by five inches. If things were to go according to Sweet Home's positions in the rankings, 26 Huskies would finish in the top eight in the 17 events.

"The guys have a chance this

year," Coach Nathan Whitfield said on Monday as he waited to see who will be representing the other teams in the various events. "It's going to come down to us and Philomath and we're going to see if we can get there. They got us at Meet of Champs and we got them at the Stayton Invite, pretty much by the same margin."

On the girls side, Sweet Home does not look as deep going into districts, but Miller is ranked second in the 800, the 1500 and the 3000, and Wright is ranked second in the javelin.

"If we show up and compete, we'll do fine," Whitfield said.

Oregon West JV Championships

Sweet Home's boys and girls both finished second at the Oregon West JV Conference Meet Thursday, May 14, at Philomath.

The boys finished with 114 points behind Cascade (125) and ahead of Newport

and Philomath, which tied for third with 90 points each, Stayton (18) and North Marion (12).

The girls scored 77 points to finish behind Philomath (111) and ahead of Cascade (63), Newport (31), Stayton (30) and North Marion (22).

The boys finished with 17 personal bests, while the girls had 10.

Winners for the boys were Bentley Uhly in the 400 (57.09, a PR), Wes Goff in the 1500 (5:05.32), the 4x400 team of Kace Stevens, Marcus Warthen, Jaicob Shaw and Uhly (4:03.30), and Ernie Hicks in the high jump (5-0) and Conner Spencer in the pole vault (9-8, an 8-inch PR). Spencer's vault moved him into third place in the team rankings in that event,

Dinah Watkins was the girls sole winner, taking first in the discus with a 2½-foot PR of 84-3, moving into fourth place in the team rankings.

Warriors continue to post personal bests as district nears

Lebanon's varsity athletes wound down their regular season Tuesday, May 12, with Crescent Valley at West Albany.

Crescent Valley won both the boys and girls competitions, with 79 points on the boys' side to 52 for Lebanon and 50 for the Bulldogs, while the Raiders scored 97 on the girls side to finish ahead of West Albany (41) and the Warriors (35).

Bohdi Brown posted a personal best of 10.91 to win the 100, his first time under 11 seconds.

Cade Weber was first in the 200 (22.42), a lean ahead of Brown, who was second in 22.49.

Freshman Xavier Macedo won the 1500 in 4:52.09, and Luke Johnson, Logan Large, Weber and Brown won the

4x100 in 43.01.

Large won the long jump (21-2) and the triple (41-6).

Dylan Juntunen was second in the shot (41-9) and the discus (120-1).

Winners for the girls were freshman Libby Pointer in the 300 hurdles (52.16, a PR), Heather Savedra in the javelin (115-3), and Ruby Vandebos in the triple jump (33-9).

MWC JV Championships

Lebanon's boys placed third and the girls were fifth in the Mid-Willamette Conference JKV Championships held Friday, May 15, at Silverton.

The boys scored 97 points, behind Silverton (212) and Dallas (105), and ahead of Corvallis (94) and Crescent Valley (41).

Silverton won the girls competition with 144 points, ahead of Dallas (134.5), Cor-

vallis (117.5), Woodburn (76) and Lebanon (69.5).

The boys 4x100 relay team of Raymond Romero, Cody Cruz, Jack Whitacre and Eadon Marshall finished first in 45.73, and the Warriors were big factors in the jumps, freshmen Jayden Nunez (5-6) and Cody Cruz (5-4) going 1-3 in the high jump, Marshall (19-7½) and Whitacre (19-1½) going 1-2 in the long jump, and Steven Searles winning the triple jump with a personal best of 37-2.

Kenley Mortensen was the top finisher for the girls, placing second in the shot with a personal best of 25-8. Brooke Fountain was third in the javelin (76-3), and Izzy Argo was third in the long jump (14-1½). On the track, Ariaahna Durgeloh finished third in the 800 (2:55.27).

For the boys, Whitacre was third in the 100 (11.88) and Eadon Marshall was third in the 200 (24.15), while Nicholas Brockett ran a personal best of 50.65 to finish third in the 300 hurdles.

District Outlook

Going into the Mid-Willamette Conference district, which starts Wednesday, May 20, at Corvallis.

The Warrior boys are definitely most competitive in the short sprints - after his run at West Albany, Brown is one of three runners separated by one-hundredth of a second in the 100, and is ranked second in the 200, six-hundredths of a second ahead of Weber in third and three-tenths of a second behind leader Wyatt Metzger of Silverton.

Weber is top-ranked in the 400, by nearly a second.

Silverton looks to be Lebanon's biggest challenge in the 4x100, half a second ahead of the second-ranked Warriors, but in the 4x400 they go into districts seven seconds ahead of the rest of the field, which looks to be tightly bunched through next seven scoring positions.

Large goes into districts a close second - by 4 inches - in the long jump, and 3 feet ahead of the rest of the field in the triple.

For the girls, Addy Pickles goes into districts ranked fourth in the 400 - after running it once, two weeks ago, and a second off her personal best, run at last year's districts.

Savedra leads the league in the javelin, while Vandebos and Pickles are 1-2 in the triple jump.

Eagles wind up regular track season with Gervais meet

East Linn's girls placed second and the boys fifth Friday, May 15, at the Jeannine James Invitational hosted by Gervais.

The girls scored 158 points behind Blanchet (225) and ahead of Knappa (67), Southwest Christian (59), Vernonia (31) and nine other schools.

Blanchet also finished on top in the boys team compe-

dition with 180 points, well ahead of Knappa (89), Vernonia (62), Southwest Christian (60) and ELCA (59), with six other teams behind the Eagles.

Lexy Kauffman swept the sprints, winning the 100 (12.69), the 200 (26.06, a PR) and the 400 (1:00.21), and anchoring the ELCA 4x100 team with Kaylyn Kauffman, Avery

Runyon and June Cowan to a second-place finish in 52.55, behind Blanchet (52.28).

Cowan won the 100 (15.74) and 300 hurdles (49.28), the latter a PR for her, and the long jump (15-0).

Svetlana Manner won the pole vault (8-0), with Annah Henry second (7-6), and Maci Modderman was second in the discus (101-6) and third in the shot (32-5).

Morgan Lalonde was second in the 1500 in 5:44.36, with Allie Presley third (5:54.34) and Bella Albert fourth (6:01.79), all PRs.

For the boys, Josh Rehart won the 400 (51.79) and Ryder Howard won the long jump (20-10¼) and took second in the triple (39-1½).

Rehart was third in the 200 (23.43), and Karter Nofziger was third in the javelin with a PR of 134-8.

Rehart, Jonah Magness,

Beckham Kramer and Ryder Howard were third in the 4x400 (3:40.10) and Kramer, Gabe Talleur, Hank Davidson and Karter Nofziger finished fourth in the 4x100 (47.64).

District 2 Championships Outlook

East Linn will compete Thursday and Friday, May 21-22, at the 2A District 2 Championships at Regis.

Lexy Kauffman and Cowan lead the Eagle girls into the district meet, Kauffman leading the rankings in the 100 (the only girl below 13 seconds), 200 and 400 (the only runner below 1:00).

Cowan is top-ranked in the 100 hurdles and second in the 300, and second in the long jump.

ELCA is second-ranked in the 4x100 (52.41), behind Delphian (51.25).

Modderman is ranked second in the shot and discus,

and Manner goes into the competition with the second-highest pole vault (8-6).

For the boys, Rehart is ranked second in the 400 and third in the 200, while Cole Pennington is ranked second in the 300 hurdles (43.30).

The 4x100 team of Kramer, Talleur, Davidson and Rehart are ranked third (45.71) behind Central Linn (45.49) and No. 1 Delphian (44.89), and Rehart, Magness, Pennington and Howard are ranked third (3:36.62) in the 4x400 behind Central Linn (3:35.49) and Delphian (3:31.70).

He boys' strongest events look to be the jumps, in which Howard is ranked No. 1 (by 5 inches) in the high jump and the triple, and second by 2¾ inches in the long jump.

In the pole vault, Davidson (12-6) and Pennington (11-6) are the top two ranked vaulters coming into the meet.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 7

reckless driving, recklessly endangering another person, LMC warrant for FTA, LCSA warrant for eluding, and LCCC warrant for FTA.

11:25 p.m. - Carrie Rose Lee, 41, cited on LMC warrants for FTAs.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

8:36 a.m. - Deputy warned subject for transporting special forest products without proper documentation. Report taken.

11:02 a.m. - Driver, who was not identified in LCSO log, cited for DWS, 35700 block Kirk, Brownsville. This entry will be updated when we get information.

11:36 a.m. - Aleksandra Soto, 25, of Springfield, cited for failure to carry proof of insurance, Main/Locust, Brownsville.

12:32 p.m. - Fraud reported in 26800 block Pickett Lane. Suspect in Florida withdrew \$5,217 from victim's account. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

8:30 p.m. - Shannon Duffy, 64, of Brownsville, arrested for DWS, reckless driving and DUII-felony. Also cited for DU and failing to use ignition interlock device. 25600 block Gap. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

10:52 a.m. - Justin Phillips, 49, of Lebanon, arrested on warrants, Mt. Hope/Payne. Report taken.

5:15 p.m. - Christian Hurley, 25, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS, Sodaville/Main.

6:27 p.m. - Amanda Chesser, 38, of Lebanon, arrested for child neglect II, 38600 block River Dr. Report taken.

MAY 13

SWEET HOME POLICE

9:11 a.m. - SHPD assisted with death investigation in 1200 block Linden Court.

8:30 p.m. - Caller reported group of females assaulted him and his brother in 4800 block Main. Officer responded, report taken for assault III. Matter referred to DA's office.

10:57 p.m. - Daniel Le Roy Ames, 56, arrested on LJC warrant for PV in criminal driving case. 300 block W. Holley. Cited and released. Lebanon Police

1:18 a.m. - Trevor Clayton Clark, 38, cited on LMC warrant for FTA.

6:53 a.m. - Complaint about loud motorized pocket dirt bike riding daily on sidewalks, creating unsafe areas, 400 block Violet St.

9:49 a.m. - Complaint of driver unable to maintain lane near Hwy. 34 and Denny School Road. Daniel Alan Schwindt, 63, detained. Report taken.

3:23 p.m. - Puppy attacked neighbor's chicken, 300 block E Elmore St. Chicken okay. Idelia Pineda, 33, cited for dog at large.

4:43 p.m. - Theft of washer/dryer set from carport while residence being remodeled, 400 block Wheeler St. Loss: \$1,500.

5:20 p.m. - Two-car crash, W Oak/S 2nd Sts. Richard Allen McIntire Jr., 49, cited for FTOTCD.

7:02 p.m. - Complaint of dirt bike being driven through Century Park.

8:36 p.m. - Caller reported subjects fighting, one displayed a gun in his waistband, Weldwood Park. Officer noted probable cause on two suspects for assault III, menacing, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct II, unlawful possession of firearms, unlawful use of a weapon, robbery III and theft III.

8:40 p.m. - Report taken for vehicle recovery of rental truck that was supposed to be returned to Portland on May 4, located in 000 block of E

Isabella St.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

4:02 a.m. - Caller from 500 block Fisher, Brownsville, reported possible intruder in carport. Deputy responded. No suspicious persons observed, but cat was located in carport.

3:34 p.m. - George Glaser, 38, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, failure to carry proof of insurance, 26200 block Gap, Brownsville.

4:15 p.m. - Jesse Mcamis, 34, of Brownsville, cited for careless driving, DWS, and failure to carry proof of insurance and vehicle registration. Mountain Home/Northern.

4:28 p.m. - Earl Ryan Dodge, 32, arrested on two outstanding warrants, on SHMC for FTA in theft case. Cited to appear June 10 in that case. Lodged at LCJ. LCSO responded to 28800 block Reynolds Lane after report of trespasser. Report taken.

4:45 p.m. - Deputies responded to disturbance in 39500 block Crawfordsville Dr. Process server was attempting to post legal paperwork on owner's fence post. Owner did not like that and confronted process server. According to LCSO, as process server tried to leave property, owner pulled vehicle door handle off. Report taken.

8:51 p.m. - Investigation into theft of \$6,000 trailer from 300 block Washburn. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

3:36 p.m. - Deputies responded to neighborhood dispute in 200 block S. 13th involving trespassing and application of a chemical to an apple tree. Steven Fultz, 67, of Lebanon, cited for criminal trespass, criminal mischief III. Cited and released. Report taken.

4:36 p.m. - Suicidal subject reported in 39800 block

Lacomb. Deputies determined there was not probable cause for police officer hold, but provided info on mental health resources and contacted Linn County Mental Health.

7:04 p.m. - Theft reported in 100 block Russell. Report taken.

MAY 12

SWEET HOME POLICE

2:44 a.m. - Zachary Michael Houdek, 28, arrested on warrants for FTA in three Du Page County, Ill., cases after officer located him in vehicle in Elm Street Baptist Church parking lot, 1150 Elm. Lodged at LCJ.

7:16 a.m. - Caller from 1200 block 44th reported loose dog "trying to kill cats." Code enforcement advised.

12:19 p.m. - Caller reported large group of kids attacking him near track, off 22nd. Officer responded, contacted caller, but found no evidence of crime. High school officials will counsel kids involved.

2:36 p.m. - Brandon Ryan Freeman, 32, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in trespassing case, SHPD, 1950 Main. Cited and released.

3:44 p.m. - Juan Ojeda Gutierrez, 24, arrested for reckless driving, cited for no insurance, MP 20 on Hwy. 20 eastbound. Multiple callers had reported vehicle speeding and driving erratically. Vehicle towed.

7:44 p.m. - Denise Marie Sanders, 60, arrested on two charges of animal neglect II, initiating false report, 1000 block Poplar. According to police, Sanders called SHPD to report two loose dogs. The city's code enforcement officer located the dogs in the area of Sanders' residence. Sanders denied knowing whom the dogs belonged to. Both dogs were described as being older, with health conditions. The code enforcement officer brought

the dogs to the SHPD's kennel. One of the dogs had a microchip linked to Sanders' deceased mother. Through investigation and contact with other family members it was determined that the dogs were being cared for by Sanders. The dogs were both released to Linn County Animal Control. Sanders cited and released.

LEBANON POLICE

6:02 a.m. - Theft of two custom Felt bikes from vehicle, 900 block Tasha Way. Loss: \$6,000.

7:59 a.m. - Video of female with white dog throwing bags of trash over fence near Russell/Franklin streets.

11:16 a.m. - Darius J. Jackson, 29, cited for DWS.

12:28 p.m. - Caretaker concerned their 89-year-old client is at risk of fraud because she believes she is dating Johnny Depp online.

2:29 p.m. - Car was rifled through, items strewn in back seat, nothing appears missing, 100 block E Oak St.

8:16 p.m. - Delbert Ray McGuire Jr., 55, cited on LCJC warrant for contempt of court.

9:07 p.m. - Richard R. Church, 45, cited for DU.

11:13 p.m. - Zachary Michael Zimmerman, 35, cited for DWS and DU.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

1:05 p.m. - Driver, who was not identified in LCSO log, cited for speeding, Hwy. 228/Hume. This entry will be updated when we get information.

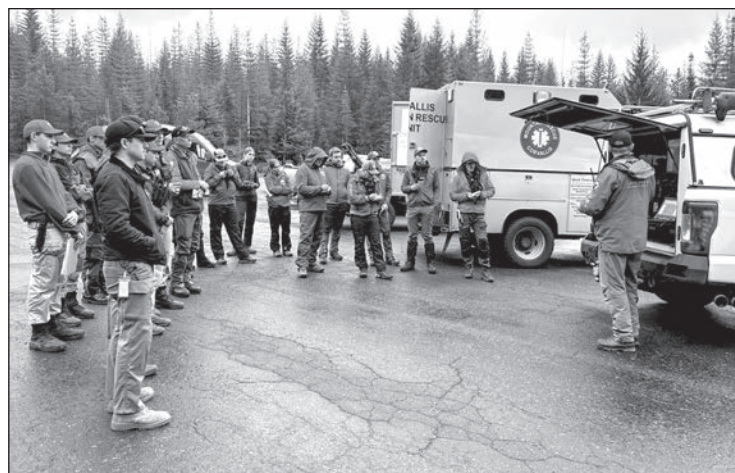
2:04 p.m. - Driver, who was not identified in LCSO log, cited for speeding, Hwy. 228/Hume. This entry will be updated when we get information.

3:03 p.m. - Caller reported scam attempt by person claiming to be deputy. No money lost. Information

See Public Safety, Page 19



Jerry Highsmith



Linn County's Search and Rescue team prepare to search for a missing Lebanon hiker. - LCSO photo

RESCUE

From page 1

Highsmith was located alive near a trail system around Duffy Lake. He was described as an experienced hiker, and likely well prepared for a couple of nights. When found, he was experiencing symptoms of exposure and was unable to walk.

A helicopter from the Oregon Army National Guard was deployed to help get Highsmith to an area hospi-

tal. The rescue involved more than 50 searchers - including ground searchers, drones, K-9s and aircraft. The Linn County Search and Rescue Team was assisted by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association Incident Management Team, Mary's Peak Search and Rescue, Corvallis Mountain Rescue, Deschutes

County Search and Rescue, Marion County Search and Rescue, Lane County Search and Rescue, Albany Police Department, Benton County Sheriff's Office, United States Forest Service, Willamette Valley First Responder Chaplains, Oregon Department of Emergency Management, and the Oregon Army National Guard.

SWEET HOME
FUNERAL CHAPEL

Life deserves celebration!

Call for personal assistance with the funeral and memorial arrangements of your choice.

541-367-2891
Visit SweetHomeFuneral.com

Sweet Home community officer recognized for work with homeless

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Coming from a nomination by Police Captain Ryan Cummings, Community Services Officer Sean Morgan was honored with a Distinguished Service Award for his consistent efforts to help homeless individuals move in a positive direction.

"His work is consistently outstanding, genuine and done with humility," Cummings stated in his nomination letter.

"When he tells me about his accomplishments, he does not need to do so in a way that is meant to build himself up. He mentions these regular achievements because he is truly excited for the people he has helped. His elation for their previously unthinkable and newfound success is infectious."

According to Cummings, some of Morgan's accomplishments include helping a homeless individual get their CDL reinstated so they could start working again, helping another get their dog's vaccination records so they could be admitted into the local homeless shelter, providing guidance to someone to fill out housing

applications, and providing regular transport for people to get to government offices or treatment facilities, "which in turn helps them get one step closer to finding permanent housing, work opportunities and mental health and/or substance abuse treatment."

Morgan shared with the council how he works with multiple departments in the city to accomplish his goal, stating "our city is engaged in trying to change the way things are," and he praised Family Resource and Assistance Center (FAC) for their help.

The key, he said, is to break down barriers so people can change their lives.

One of the biggest obstacles, however, is navigating bureaucratic departments and regulations.

Morgan cited an example of a man who'd been homeless for 30 years and in an apartment the past two years, but he was about to be on the streets again due to a misunderstanding with the Social Security Department. Morgan stepped in to do the leg work to figure out the solution.

"He'd have been on the street within weeks if the

job I can do wasn't here," he said.

Morgan emphasized the success comes not from him, but largely from all the other organizations who have the knowledge to solve the problems he is trying to work out.

"We have come so far. There's so many people working in our community to change this today," he said, noting the early work contributed from Brock Byers, Shirley Byrd, Rachel Lytle, Scottie McKee and Kandyce Stirman.

"His efforts are unrelenting and his tasks are not easy, often requiring research and collaboration with nonprofits or donors," Cummings said about Morgan.

"The barriers he breaks down for homeless individuals in our community often leaves them surprised and eternally grateful."

In other business:

- Police Chief Jason Ogden swore in the department's newest officer, Parker Alger.
- Library Director Megan Dazey reported she accepted a \$39,000 grant to go toward technology for the library and senior center.
- Ogden provided context



Sweet Home's Community Services Officer Sean Morgan, left, and incoming Officer Parker Alger were recognized during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 12.

- City of Sweet Home photo

Waterloo to consider city recorder hours

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Following a preliminary Budget Committee meeting, the Waterloo City Council talked about increasing hours for the city recorder during its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 12.

During the budget meeting, increasing the hours for the city recorder came into discussion, with a suggestion to increase it to 60 or even 80 hours per month.

Currently the city recorder is allotted 40 hours a month to conduct work for the city, but is currently operating with a 100-hour budget per month through June while the outgoing recorder trains the incoming recorder.

During the City Council meeting, Councilor Bill Young suggested they bump the regular hours up to 60 per month.

"There's a lot of business these individuals have to do and a lot of good ideas that us councilors come through and we throw it on their plate," Young said. "And we expect it to get done in the next two, three weeks... It's a lot of work for these people to do for our city and our community."

Outgoing recorder Grace Reed said the decision to go to 60 or 80 hours depends on what the council wants.

"If you want to be taking stronger enforcement action and fines and getting (the

fines), I would put it at 80 and hope the return would come from fines being paid and/or the places being cleaned up," she said. "Or if you just want to add some more things in for the city recorder to be doing, then 60 is a great one... I personally think 40 is not enough to help the city thrive; 40 gets you by."

Incoming recorder David Reed said there's a backlog of records going back years that need to be processed or filed, in addition to regular city work.

Grace said a former recorder for the city, Kathy Nelson, has offered to train David at a discounted rate. Many of the recent recorders have not been fully trained for the position, so there's a gap in skill and knowledge.

Nelson would train David on developing an annual budget, in addition to regular city operations. The council agreed Grace could essentially give her hours over to Nelson so the city does not lose any extra money.

The council decided to discuss the hours-increase at the next council meeting.

The next budget meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, and is expected to be presented during the June 9 City Council meeting.

In other business:

- The council approved a building permit for property behind 39426 Klum St.
- The council approved a

building permit for conversion of a basement into a living space at 31070 4th St.

- David Reed reported he was able to gain access to the city's computer files and cloud services that were password-protected by a former city recorder. Reed used two different services to clean the computer and gain access, which cost the city about \$200.
- Young reported a plan to secure the city bus shelters to the ground.
- Councilor Dennis Scott reported there have been a number of complaints about garbage and safety concerns for children at a residence on Davis Street. After having notified the residents about ordinance violations, the city will seek outside assistance and begin fining the property owner.
- The council asked David Reed to begin looking at costs to fix the front porch at City Hall, which has been falling into disrepair and is softening underfoot.
- The council agreed to sign a resolution supporting dissolution of the Emergency Telephone Agency (ETA). For more information, visit LebanonLocalNews.com/911-panel-shutdown-okd-by-lebanon/.

on the city's role regarding concerns about local business Dad Bod Detailing. In short, the concern involved daily flushing of soaps into the storm water system, which drains directly into

the river. The city made efforts to work with the business for months.

• The council held a joint work session prior to the regular meeting to participate in land use training.

EVENTS

From page 8

dog feed and resource fair to connect residents with local resources.

Register online at forms.gle/iwqmfobHKs2oNHNk6 or contact Maddie Tutton at mtutton@sweethomefireor.gov.

LEBANON GARDEN BEDS AVAILABLE

Porter Park Community Garden in Lebanon has 15 raised garden plots available for rent.

The Community Garden was built by the city to give Lebanon residents a place to garden and promote a healthy community through fresh garden-grown produce and enjoy a community of gardeners.

Located at 2240 Porter St., the rental plot includes soil, compost, water, basic gardening tools to use on-site, and support from Master Gardener and Community Garden Coordinator Sheryl Casteen.

Impromptu garden classes or mentoring available upon request. Application documents can be found at LebanonOregon.gov/535/Porter-Park-Community-Garden, or send an email request to parksres@lebanonoregon.gov.

YOUNG WOMEN'S FIRE ACADEMY

Lebanon Fire District brings back its annual free two-day Linn County Young Women's

Fire Academy Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 22-23.

The academy, taught by women firefighters, is open to Oregon girls aged 14 to 19.

The YWFA is designed to be fun, challenging, entertaining and educational, including a range of classes encompassing skills such as fire suppression, emergency medical services, interviewing skills, climbing ladders, vehicle extrication, physical fitness, technical skills, teamwork and leadership skills, and more.

The application deadline is extended to June 1. To apply, visit LebanonFireOregon.gov/259/Linn-County-Young-Womens-Fire-Academy, or stop in at Station 31, 1050 W. Oak St., Lebanon, during business hours, M-F, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

STRAWBERRY STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

The Lebanon Garden Club will host its annual Standard Flower Show in conjunction with the Lebanon Strawberry Festival on June 5-6 at Santiam Place Event Center, 139 S. Main St., Lebanon.

Anyone is welcome to submit their own flowers or flower designs free of charge.

Entry cards and rule books are available at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, Lebanon Senior Center, Lebanon Library and Summit Ace Garden Center.

Rule books can be emailed by request at LebanonGCOR@gmail.com.

Citywide hand jive part of Strawberry Festival

The Lebanon Strawberry Festival Association announced plans for the 117th annual event, which will be held June 4-7, including a community-wide participation in the hand jive.

The 2026 theme, "Strawberry Nights," sets the stage for a 1950s-inspired weekend, channeling the spirit of "Grease," with family-friendly activities, live entertainment and time-honored traditions that draw thousands from across the Willamette Valley and beyond.

This multi-day celebration features live entertainment, local vendors, youth and family activities, and signature events that define early summer in Oregon. Organized and powered by hundreds of volunteers across 20 committees, from Grand Parade to Souvenirs, Coronation, Run/Walk, and Shortcake, the festival continues to evolve while honoring its historic roots.

"As one of Oregon's longest-running heritage festi-

vals, the Lebanon Strawberry Festival celebrates agricultural roots, community pride and the power of volunteerism," stated Jill Ingalls, member of the management team, in a press release.

In addition to the festival's signature experiences (grand parade, strawberry shortcake, junior and senior princess courts, coronation and fair) and other entertainment (Family Land, All Heroes celebration, vendors, live music and fireworks), this year's festival will highlight some new opportunities for community-centered fun, including a city-wide call to participate in a coordinated hand jive performance.

Sandwiched between live musical performances on Saturday, June 6, the Strawberry Festival team will conduct an effort to lead a community-wide hand jive performance.

The hand jive is one of the most iconic scenes in the movie "Grease." The largest hand jive known to date was

achieved by Brookdale Senior Living in Colorado when 810 people participated in the dance in June 2015.

Ingalls told The New Era she'd like to see that record (unofficially) broken at the Strawberry Festival, "for fun." Interested persons may learn the moves and practice by visiting [YouTube.com/watch?v=HdIyOwqexNM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdIyOwqexNM).

The 2026 festival will also include:

- A new Kid Zone will be presented by the Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Santiam.
- Headliner Bryan Martin, Brady Goss and Roll On, an Alabama tribute band, are this year's musical artists.
- Sunday will feature Lebanon's own youth with performances by Hollywood Dance Studios, Lebanon High School jazz band, and additional youth and community performers.
- An historic float restoration project.
- Cheadle Lake Park construction updates.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 17

documented. 24800 block Brush Creek.

7:41 p.m. - Crash reported in 41800 block North River. Juvenile, 16, hit power pole after losing control of vehicle on corner. No injuries. Report taken.

8:22 p.m. - Michael Bidema, 46, of Lebanon, arrested for theft III. 28400 block Liberty. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

2:25 a.m. - Mario Ramon Carbajal, 33, of Lebanon, arrested for DUII, reckless driving. Cited for FTOTCD and refusal to take blood alcohol test. Santiam Hwy./Market. Report taken,

12:17 p.m. - Aletha Kleinschmidt, 51, of Lebanon, cited for unspecified traffic violation following collision with school bus, Berlin/Waterloo. Report taken.

7:04 p.m. - Female, 14, reported as runaway, 32899 block Brewster. Report taken.

10:32 p.m. - Mitchell Melbye, 46, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant, 100 block Russell. Report taken.

11:20 p.m. - Ethan Bird, 53, of Lebanon, cited for DWS, DU, River Dr./Kay.

MAY 11

SWEET HOME POLICE

9:12 a.m. - Caller from Safeway parking lot reported male panhandling at that location. Caller reported almost hitting male because he stepped in front of caller's car. Officer was unable to locate the panhandler.

11:04 a.m. - Joel Keith Pahnke II, 42, arrested for theft III and on LCCC warrants in DUII, failure to carry and present driver's license, and failure to appear

cases. Caller from Thriftway reported male had stolen Red Bull from store, 621 Main.

12:09 p.m. - Caller reported male on bicycle looking into her windows in 1000 block 2nd while she was at work. Info noted.

1:14 p.m. - Kristopher Ray Moak, 39, arrested on Oregon State Parole Board warrant for PV and LMC warrant for contempt in felon in possession of restricted weapon case, 1000 block 14th. Lodged at LCJ.

3:46 p.m. - Erin Elizabeth Tracy, 26, cited for speeding, 63/45, Main/45th.

7:12 p.m. - Citizen visited SHPD to report that a male had taken off in a vehicle from 3000 block Main with her belongings inside a day before. Officer responded. Report taken for theft III. Value estimated at \$60.

7:36 p.m. - Caller reported she had not been able to contact daughter for three weeks. Report taken for missing person. Missing woman is Heather Richards, 45. 2800 block Kalmia.

8:17 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle parked in area of 10th/Pinetop since previous Thursday. Officer responded, vehicle posted for removal on May 13.

LEBANON POLICE

8:37 a.m. - Video shows juveniles fighting with houseless person at Bentley Park. Investigation ongoing.

4:49 p.m. - Shoplifter at Bi-Mart. Tamara L. McNeeley, 63, cited for theft III. Report taken.

9:51 p.m. - Juvenile cited for DU.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

12:30 a.m. - Deputy drove over live skunk, 30800 block Abraham, Halsey. Skunk had to be dispatched due to suffering. 9:38 a.m. - Ronald Katen, 70, of Brownsville, arrested for criminal mistreatment I, assault IV, 300 block Kirk, Brownsville. Report taken.

1:16 p.m. - Caller reported someone broke into home in 48700 block Hwy. 20, Cascadia, stole vehicle. Vehicle was recovered. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

1:32 p.m. - Caller reported two males at business in 33100 block Hwy. 228, Halsey, who had been trespassed. Deputy warned them for trespassing and provided them with ride away from location to avoid further issues.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

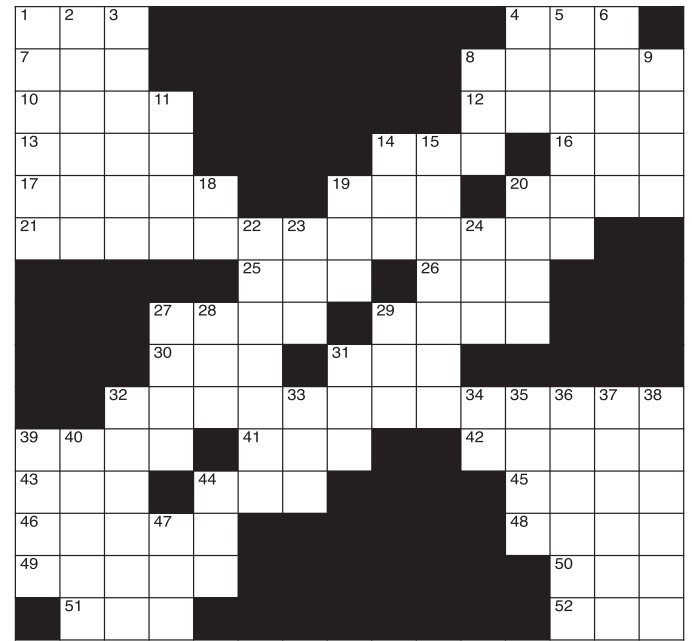
2:53 a.m. - Caller reported theft of approximately 10 gallons of gas from bus at Waterloo Chapel, Gross/2nd. According to LCSO, a county employee witnessed the theft and identified the offenders. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

11:03 a.m. - Caller reported theft from 35100 block Brewster. Two large metal gates stolen. Report taken.

4:18 p.m. - Caller complained about noise and dust from dirt bikes in 34600 block Tennessee.

8:02 p.m. - Caller reported theft of cat, 39300 block Mt. Hope. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

CROSSWORD



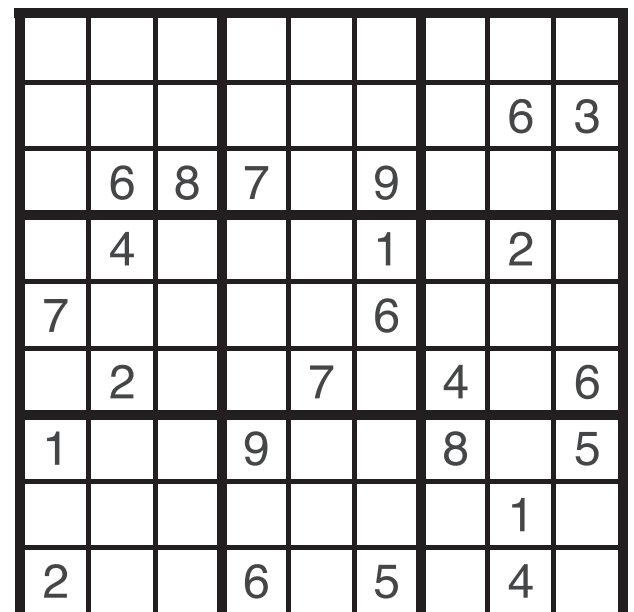
CLUES ACROSS

- "Be back later"
- Zhou dynasty state
- Mineral
- ___ and gagged
- One of Lebron's former sidekicks
- Ivory Coast village
- Caffeinated beverage
- Without armies
- Intention
- Sulfuric and citric are two
- Supplement with difficulty
- & & &
- George and Weezie
- Liquefied petroleum gas
- Immortal act
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Aids digestion
- Comedy routine
- Actress Thurman
- Adult beverage
- Amounts of time
- An awkward stupid person
- ___ Walker, "The Color Purple"
- Covers babies' chests
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Ottoman military title
- More skilled
- Natives to New Mexico
- Indigent
- Illuminated
- Very fast airplane
- Devoid of cordiality

CLUES DOWN

- Comedian Goldthwait
- Worn by women
- "Naked Gun" actor Nielsen
- Processes fatty acids
- Mortals
- Not invited
- Show ___: entertainment
- Darkens
- Pilgrimage
- Danish krone
- Savior
- Midway between south and east
- Electroencephalograph
- Henry's wife Boleyn
- Hairstyle
- Frames per second
- Sinclair novel
- Basics
- A person's life story
- Luxury automaker
- Ultrahigh frequency
- Island and antelope are two
- Taxi
- Farm state
- Fence part
- Rwandan capital
- Onomatopoeic
- In a state of turbulence
- Abba ___, Israeli politician
- Flowering plants
- Inquire too closely
- Sun up in New York

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

Public Notices

TRUSTEE'S AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to ORS 86.705, et seq. and ORS 79.0601, et seq. (Amended to Correct a Scrivener's Error in the Legal Description)

Reference is made to a certain trust deed ("Trust Deed") made, executed and delivered by Kingdom Builders Investments, LLC an Oregon Limited Liability Company, as grantor, to First American Title Company of Oregon, as trustee, in favor of Hendrikus J. Bloemendaal and Nancy C. Bloemendaal Co-Trustees of the Bloemendaal Family Trust, dated August 28, 1992, as beneficiary, dated April 4, 2022, and recorded on April 4, 2022, as Recording No. 2022-06219, in the mortgage records of Linn County, Oregon.

The Trust Deed now covers the following described real property ("Property") situated in said county and state, to-wit: Parcel 1, Partition Plat 2026-007, Linn County Oregon (Tax acct 243390).

Parcel 2, Partition Plat 2026-007, Linn County Oregon (Tax acct 950548).

Parcel 1, Partition Plat 2026-006, Linn County Oregon (Tax acct 244398).

There are defaults by the grantor or other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the Trust Deed, with respect to provisions therein which authorize sale in the event of default of such provision; the defaults for which foreclosure is made is grantor's failure to pay when due the following sums:

Arrearage in the sum of \$370,902.61 as of March 3, 2026, plus additional payments, property expenditures, taxes, liens, assessments, insurance, late fees, attorney's and trustee's fees and costs, and interest due at the time of reinstatement or sale.

By reason of said defaults, the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligations secured by said Trust Deed immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to-wit: Payoff in the sum of \$370,902.61 as of March 3, 2026, plus taxes, liens, assessments, property expenditures, insurance, accruing interest, late fees, attorney's and trustee's fees and costs incurred by beneficiary or its assigns.

WHEREFORE, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee will on July 28, 2026, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., in accord with the standard of time established by ORS 187.110, at the following place: North Front Entrance of the Linn County Courthouse, 300 Fourth Avenue S.W., Albany, Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the above-described Property, which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by grantor of the said Trust Deed, together with any interest which the grantor or grantor's successors in interest acquired after the execution of the Trust Deed, to satisfy the obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee.

Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for the sale, to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred) and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation or Trust Deed, and in addition to paying said sum or tendering the performance necessary to cure the default, by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Trust Deed, together with trustee's and attorney's fees not exceeding the amounts provided by said ORS 86.778.

Public Notices

In construing this notice, the singular includes the plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said Trust Deed, and the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale.

The NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS, attached hereto as Exhibit A, is incorporated herein by reference. [Exhibit A, NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS, is not published pursuant to ORS 86.774(2)(b).] DATED: March 12, 2026. /s/ Eleanor A. DuBay Eleanor A. DuBay, OSB #073755 Authorized By: Tomasi Bragar DuBay PC, Successor Trustee 121 SW Morrison, Suite 1850 Portland, OR 97204 Phone: 503-894-9900; fax: 971-544-7236 (5/13, 5/20, 5/27, 6/3)

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MARIANNE N. EATON and HANNAH R. DEJONG have been appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the ESTATE OF JERRY JOHN DEJONG, Deceased, by the Circuit Court for the State of Oregon for Linn County under Case No. 26PB03870. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the said Personal Representative at Stayton Law, 582 E Washington St, PO Box 248, Stayton, OR 97383, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published May 20, 2026. Co-Personal Representatives: Marianne N. Eaton PO Box 152 Scio, OR 97374 Telephone: (541) 409-2781 Hannah R. DeJong 42152 Fish Hatchery Dr Scio, OR 97374 Telephone: (541) 409-4139 Attorney for Personal Representative: Jennifer L. Tiger, OSB#990890 Stayton Law 582 E Washington St PO Box 248 Stayton, Oregon 97383 (5/20)

Public Notices

Auction June 8th, 1982 Pace Arrow space 80 at Parco storage 1491 47th Ave. Sweet Home. Owner Andrea Higgins. Send Bid or for more information email Rental@parcorvandoat.com (5/20, 5/27)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN JUDY DINSFRIEND, an individual; and CHARLES DINSFRIEND, an individual, Plaintiffs, v. JAMIE L. DINSFRIEND, an individual; BRIAN DINSFRIEND, an individual; and ALL OTHERS, Defendants. Case No.: 26CV17139 PUBLISHED SUMMONS TO: Jamie L. Dinsfriend, Brian Dinsfriend, ALL OTHERS 39590 Crawfordsville Drive, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386 IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: You are hereby required to appear and defend

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN

from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published May 20, 2026. Co-Personal Representatives: Marianne N. Eaton PO Box 152 Scio, OR 97374 Telephone: (541) 409-2781 Hannah R. DeJong 42152 Fish Hatchery Dr Scio, OR 97374 Telephone: (541) 409-4139 Attorney for Personal Representative: Jennifer L. Tiger, OSB#990890 Stayton Law 582 E Washington St PO Box 248 Stayton, Oregon 97383 (5/20)

Public Notices

the Complaint filed against you in the above-entitled cause within 30 days from the date of service of this Summons on you. The matter at hand in this complaint is breach of contract, elder abuse, and ejection related to 39590 Crawfordsville Drive, Sweet Home, Oregon. If you fail to appear and defend, the Plaintiffs will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY

You must "appear" in this case, or the other side will win automatically. To appear, you must file with the court a legal paper called a motion or answer. The motion or answer must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days of the date of first publication specified below along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the Plaintiff's attorney, or if the Plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the Plaintiff.

The first date of publication was May 20, 2026.

If you have any questions, you should see a lawyer immediately. If you need help finding a lawyer, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. Dated: May 8, 2026 /s/ Blossom Van Kinkle Blossom Van Kinkle, OSB No. 231200 Attorney for Plaintiffs Attorney for Plaintiffs : Law Offices of Ivers & Miller, 317 First Avenue W. Suite 302

Attorney for Personal Representative: Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney OSB#023915 PO Box 81 ~ 1195 Main Street Suite 2 Sweet Home, OR 97386 (541) 270-2406 Mealer@actionnet.net (5/20)

Public Notices

P.O. Box 1033 Albany, Oregon 97321 541-928-5875; fax 541-967-9730 blossom@ivers.law (5/20, 5/27, 6/3, 6/10)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN Probate Department

In the Matter of the Estate of PEGGY R. BRACKETT, Deceased. Case No. 26PB04291 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 11, 2026, Teri Lynn Butler, was appointed as Personal Representative of the above-referenced estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative or to Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney, at the addresses listed below, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.

Personal Representative: Teri Lynn Butler 334 NW Melrose Street Sublimity, OR 97385 (503) 551-4790 Attorney for Personal Representative: Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney OSB#023915 PO Box 81 ~ 1195 Main Street Suite 2 Sweet Home, OR 97386 (541) 270-2406 Mealer@actionnet.net (5/20)

FORM OR-LB-1 NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING. A public meeting of the Brownsville Rural Fire District will be held on May 26th, 2026 at 6:30 pm at Station 61 600 E. Blakely Ave. Brownsville, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 as approved by the Brownsville Rural Fire District Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at Station 61, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year. Contact: Fire Chief Kevin Rogers Telephone: 541-466-5227 Email: chief@brownsvillefire.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount 2024-2025	Adopted Budget This Year 2025-2026	Approved Budget Next Year 2025-2026
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	138,513	451,493	540,642
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	0	0	0
Federal, State & all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations & Donations	198,262	110,500	75,500
Revenue from Bonds and Other Debt	0	0	0
Interfund Transfers / Internal Service Reimbursements	0	0	0
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	513,923	561,993	616,142
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	435,274	417,007	433,858
Total Resources	772,049	979,000	1,050,000

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Personnel Services	386,537	355,000	451,000
Materials and Services	188,570	279,000	304,000
Capital Outlay	0	205,000	155,000
Debt Service	0	0	0
Interfund Transfers	0	0	0
Contingencies	0	60,000	60,000
Special Payments	0	0	0
Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	196,942	80,000	80,000
Total Requirements	772,049	979,000	1,050,000

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name of Organizational Unit or Program	FTE for that unit or program		
Fire Protection Services	772,049	979,000	1,050,000
FTE	2	2	3
Total Requirements	772,049	979,000	1,050,000
Total FTE	2	2	3

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING *

The 2026-2027 budget is a balanced budget of \$1050,000. The General fund has been increased in the following categories: Gas & Oil, Bookkeeping, 911 Contract and Personnel Services.

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed 2024-2025	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2025-2026	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 202-2027
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit 1.1985 per \$1,000)	1.1985	1.1985	1.1985
Local Option Levy	0	0	0
Levy For General Obligation Bonds	0	0	0

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS		
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1.	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1
General Obligation Bonds	\$0	\$0
Other Bonds	\$0	\$0
Other Borrowings	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0

* If more space is needed to complete any section of this form, insert lines (rows) on this sheet. You may delete blank lines.

150-504-064 (Rev. 11-19-21)

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mill Race Storage will hold a public auction on May 29, 2026, under ORS. 87.685-87.695 and sell property contained within the assigned unit of the parties listed below:

Mary Worsham unit # 1019
Elizabeth Wright unit #D014,
Amanda Pagauga Unit # B010,
Units will be available on Lockerfox.com on Friday May 29, 2026.
Purchases must be paid in full by cash or money order at the time of pickup at:
Mill Race Storage
550 NE Laredo Way
Lebanon, OR 97355
(5/20, 5/27)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
June 1st, 2026
Brownsville City Hall Council
Chambers**

The City of Brownsville will hold a public hearing before the Planning Commission on Monday, June 1st, 2026, to consider an application for a Variance in the Medium Density Residential Zone (MDR).
The hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m., in Brownsville City Hall, 255 N. Main Street, Council Chambers, on the date listed above. The Staff Report will be available for review at City Hall by 4:00 p.m., May 29th, 2026; a copy of the document may be obtained on that date for the cost of copying.

NATURE OF PROPOSAL:

Variance to minimum lot width standards in the Medium Density Residential zone, related to Map & Taxlot T.13S, R.02W, SEC. 31CA, TL 04700, 344 Kirk Avenue

LOCATION:

344 Kirk Avenue
13S02W31CA04700
Brownsville, OR 97327

APPLICANT(S):

Ben Swartzendruber
PO Box 485
Brownsville, OR 97327

APPLICABLE CRITERIA:

Brownsville Ordinances 15.40.040, 15.50.010-.030, 15.80.060, 15.115.030, 15.115.040, 15.85.050 & 15.130. Issues which may provide the basis for an appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals must be raised either in writing, as described below, or in oral testimony at the public hearing. Issues shall be raised with sufficient specificity to enable all parties to respond to the issue. Failure to do so preclude appeal of the City's decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) based on that issue.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the City of Brownsville, Attention: Elizabeth Coleman, P.O. Box 188, Brownsville, OR 97327, fax to (541) 466-5118, or to City Hall at 255 N Main, and must be received by 4:00pm, May 28th, 2026. Copies of all materials relied upon by the applicant are available for review and may be obtained for the actual cost of photocopies and postage (if needed). Please contact Elizabeth Coleman with any questions at (541) 466-5666.
(5/20, 5/27)

Logging Truck for Hire

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(5/20 - 6/10)

Wanted Motorhome

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(3/04- 5/27)

RV & Boat Storage

RV and Boat Storage spaces for rent. \$75/ month. Lebanon. Easy access to Highway 20. Fully fenced, electric gate, 40 ft. spaces. Someone does live on the lot for extra security. 541-451-0248. Texting is best.
(5/06 - 5/27)

Items for Sale

For Sale: 1972 triumph tiger motorcycle 4 speed 19,000 miles original; 1960 El Camino parts car; 4000 watt generator 220V/110V/12V; 1970s Peugeot racing bicycle 541-926-8894.
(5/06 - 5/27)

Generator for Sale

8000W Generac portable generator new battery with charger. Cash Only \$475 541-258-2007.
(5/20 - 5/27)

Futon for Sale

For Sale, Beautiful Brown Queen Futon. New Condition. \$200 541-973-6641
(5/20)

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SERVICES: Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-695-9265 today!

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appliances and home systems like heating and cooling can be costly. A home warranty plan can help. Start saving and get 30% off any plan today. Workmanship Guarantee included. Terms apply. Call Cinch Home Services 1-855-907-9919.

SERVICES: FreedomCare. Let your loved ones care for you and get paid! Paid by Medicaid. Choose family or friends as your paid caregiver. Check your eligibility today! Call FreedomCare now! 1-855-994-1589.

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FORM OR-LB-1

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

Oregon Department of Revenue

A public meeting of the City of Sweet Home will be held on 5/26/26 at 6:30 a.m. at City Hall p.m.
(Governing body) (Date)
3225 Main Street, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the
(Location)
fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 as approved by the City of Sweet Home Budget Committee. A summary of
(Municipal corporation)
the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at 3225 Main Street
(Street address)
Sweet Home, OR between the hours of 7:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m., or online at www.sweethomeor.gov This
budget is for an annual; biennial budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is: the same as;
different than the preceding year. If different, the major changes and their effect on the budget are:

Contact	Telephone number	E-mail
Jason Ogden	541-367-8969	jogden@sweethomeor.gov

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES

TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amounts 20 24 -20 25	Adopted Budget This Year: 20 25 -20 26	Approved Budget Next Year: 20 26 -20 27
1. Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	21,990,611	24,980,940	27,325,000
2. Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges.....	8,658,701	9,271,000	8,210,000
3. Federal, State & all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations & Donations.....	459,442	73,000	135,000
4. Revenue from Bonds & Other Debt.....	0	0	0
5. Interfund Transfers/Internal Service Reimbursements	555,034	65,000	65,000
6. All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes.....	3,042,480	891,000	1,976,000
7. Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received.....	5,924,117	6,009,000	6,193,000
8. Total Resources - add lines 1 through 7.....	40,630,385	41,289,940	43,904,000

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION

9. Personnel Services.....	7,637,364	8,536,000	9,406,000
10. Materials and Services	5,115,403	5,361,940	6,654,000
11. Capital Outlay	935,136	3,220,000	3,530,000
12. Debt Service	1,388,776	1,285,000	952,000
13. Interfund Transfers.....	555,034	65,000	65,000
14. Contingencies.....	0	4,858,000	17,489,500
15. Special Payments	0	0	0
16. Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	0	17,964,000	6,167,500
17. Total Requirements - add lines 9 through 16.....	15,631,713	41,289,940	43,904,000

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM*

Name of Organizational Unit or Program	FTE for Unit or Program		
Name Administration	3,649,133	10,937,000	8,957,000
FTE	8.90	10.28	10.35
Name Library	649,537	2,232,000	2,252,000
FTE	4.50	4.78	5.08
Name Community Development	827,176	675,000	593,000
FTE	6.00	5.00	4.00
Name Police	4,050,524	7,920,000	8,092,000
FTE	23.50	24.24	24.67
Name Public Works	6,458,343	20,165,000	24,010,000
FTE	24.40	24.00	23.00
Not Allocated to Organizational Unit or Program			
FTE			
Total Requirements	15,631,713	41,289,940	43,904,000
Total FTE	67.30	68.30	67.10

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING*

No changes

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES

	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Approved
Permanent Rate Levy (Rate Limit 1.4157 Per \$1000)	1.4157	1.4157	1.4157
Local Option Levy	9.02	9.02	9.02
Levy for General Obligation Bonds	0	0	0

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS

Long Term Debt	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1	Estimated Debt Authorized, but not Incurred on July 1
General Obligation Bonds.....	3,045,000	0
Other Bonds	0	0
Other Borrowings	4,721,180	0
Total	7,766,180	0

WesternU graduates 134 doctors, therapists

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

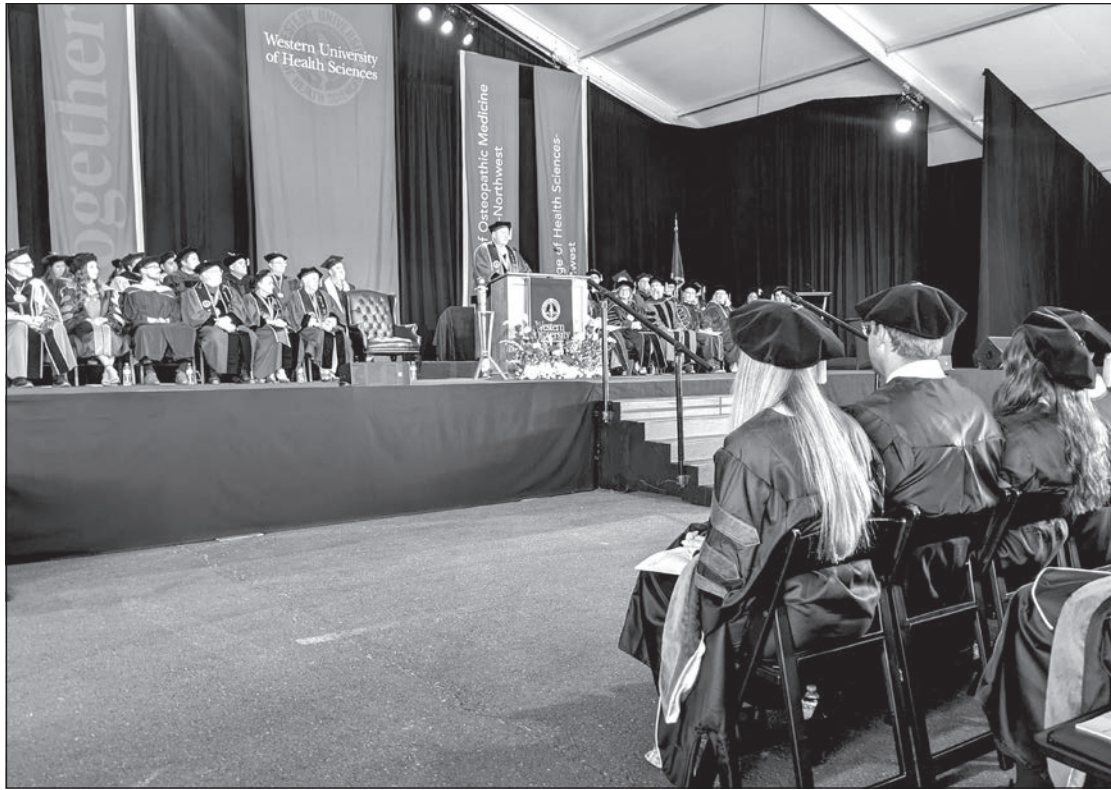
The now-familiar annual site of an oversized tent canopy took shape in the parking lot of the Boulder Falls Event Center in Lebanon as Western University of Health Sciences prepared to nudge out the Class of 2026 into the world.

This year, the College of Health Sciences-Northwest graduated 33 students as doctors of physical therapy, and the COMP-Northwest graduated 101 students as doctors of osteopathic medicine.

Lebanon's own Joshua Elzinga and his wife, Madison, were among those who earned their degrees in physical therapy. He said he is most interested in orthopedic and sports rehabilitation, helping patients recover from injuries and return to their daily activities.

"Looking back at my time at WesternU, I would describe the experience as both challenging and rewarding," he said.

One thing that stood out most to him was being in-



Board of Trustees member Mike Cowgill congratulates the Class of 2026.

- Photo by Sarah Brown

involved with the school's Pro Bono PALS Clinic, where students work directly with helping members of the community while gaining hands-

on experience as students. "It was a meaningful part of the program and helped reinforce why I chose physical therapy," Elzinga said.

WesternU President Robin Farias-Eisner celebrated the graduating students, noting their resilience to come through with skill, wisdom,

humility and humanity. "That matters greatly because the world needs you," he said. "It needs healers, and you are those healers."

The Health Resources and Services Administration declared a national health professional shortage crisis this year, driven by an aging population, escalating demand, and gaps in care, he said.

"You're the solution to that crisis," he said.

Farias-Eisner also celebrated all who supported the medical students through their journey, from friends and family to the faculty, staff, deans and provost, as well as those in the community - all who have mentored, inspired, led by example and been empathetic to the students.

"I encourage you to remain lifelong learners, to be courageous in your convictions, humble in your service and steadfast in your commitment to justice and human dignity," Farias-Eisner told the graduates. "Today you're not merely a graduate. You step forward fully into your calling."

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May Week Celebration at SHHS



Sweet Home High School's May Court members, above, include, from left, Camden Albrecht, Cannon Klumph, Lilly Stratman, Skyler Willey, Trinity Victor, Annabelle Morris, Isaiah Scofield, Delainie Pratt, Levi Ensley, Natalie Conn, Keeghan Gittins, Selah Wright, Luke Rosa, Ashley Duncan and Ben Perry. Princess Ella Larsen was unable to be present for the photo. Below, senior Luke Rosa, right, and sophomore Martin Chelstad square off in an arm wrestling match, officiated by Josie Macklin, center. At right, seniors celebrate a clutch comeback over the sophomores in the May Week Track Meet. The winners get the annual Pride Trip to Bullwinkles. Bottom, King Cannon Klumph applauds as Queen Lilly Stratman adjusts her crown. See many more photos and some video at sweethomenews.com.



Photos by Scott Swanson



REP. JAMICATE@OREGONLEGISLATURE.GOV 503-986-1411

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STATE REP

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Local officers recognized for life-saving acts

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Two Lebanon police officers were each awarded a Medal of Valor during the City Council's regular meeting on Wednesday, May 13.

Officers Wesley Parker and Wyatt Belknap were honored for their actions that ultimately saved a man's life.

According to Police Chief Frank Stevenson, Parker was patrolling near an apartment complex on S 7th Street on March 29 when he saw a man leaning against the building. He instinctively felt something was off, so he turned around to check it out.

When he approached the location, the man was gone, but a window was broken. Looking around the building, Parker found a car door open with the man leaning inside. The man had a "substantial" amount of blood running down his arm, enough to cover his clothing and pool on the ground.

Parker learned the man had locked himself out of his apartment and cut his arm while breaking into his apartment window.

After calling for medics, Parker "recognized the bright red oxygenated blood as an arterial bleed, and quickly took appropriate action by applying a tourniquet," Stevenson said.

Soon after, Belknap arrived and applied a second tourniquet, which completely stopped the bleeding.

"Throughout the incident, both officers demonstrated proactive instincts, a calm demeanor, decisive action and unwavering commitment to preserving life," Stevenson said. "Their quick response and immediate medical intervention were critical and directly contributed to the saving of the man's life."



City Council and staff give a standing ovation to officers Wesley Parker, left, and Wyatt Belknap for their actions to save a man's life. - Photos by Sarah Brown



Police Chief Frank Stevenson hands a citation and Medal of Valor to Wesley Parker, left, and Wyatt Belknap during the May 13 City Council meeting.

Planning for Lebanon's 150th

Paul Aziz and Gary Marks, members of the Lebanon Museum Foundation, presented the council with plans to celebrate Lebanon's 150th anniversary in October 2028 with a community-wide celebration to be observed as Founders Day.

Marks gave a brief overview of the city's roots, which were born out of Jeremiah Ralston when he arrived in the area in 1847 after crossing the country on the Oregon Trail. He named the area Lebanon and, after population growth, the city became officially incorporated in October of 1878.

"Throughout 2028, we will be coordinating special events and activities to celebrate Lebanon's sesquicentennial and bring our community together in recognition of 150 years of history, progress and community spirit," Marks said.

The Lebanon Museum Foundation will form a dedicated committee to act as the central hub for the city's celebration, and they asked the City Council if the city would

reach a consensus allowing the foundation to act as the primary coordinator for organization of what they are calling "Project 150 Celebration."

Aziz, former mayor, and Marks, former city manager, both understand the limited resources the city has to be able to conduct an anniversary celebration, Aziz said, which is why the foundation wanted to take on the weight of it.

"Community involvement and participation will be essential in making this historic celebration a success," Marks said.

Marks, an artist, shared his digital painting of the former Albany & Lebanon Railroad train approaching Lebanon's historic train station, symbolizing the coming of the 150th celebration. He also designed the logo for the anniversary.

In other business:

- The council held a work session prior to the regular meeting to discuss messaging strategies concerning a proposed jail levy.

- Residents asked for help regarding concerns they have in their neighborhood regard-



Members of the Lebanon Museum Foundation present to City Council their plans to coordinate a community-wide celebration of Founders Day in 2028.

ing traffic and children.

- Library Director Kendra Antila presented a public notice of intent to apply for a Community Development Block Grant for the purpose of expanding the library's children area.

- The council approved an amendment to city code regarding candidate filing periods. City Recorder Julie Fisher explained a new state law requires incumbents must file

seven days prior to non-incumbents.

- The council approved a resolution accepting lottery revenue by the state. City Manager Ron Whitlatch explained the state awarded Lebanon \$2 million from the Oregon Lottery Revenue Bonds for the wastewater treatment plant biosolids project.

- The council approved a three-year contract renewal for City Attorney Tré Kennedy.

The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week



This week's ICEBOX performer of the week goes to Floyd, the guy who proves that no job is ever too big... or too small.

From tackling the long list of spring maintenance projects, to fixing a leaky A/C, to building a table for the marketing office, if it needs done, Floyd gets after it.

The management team recognized Floyd this week for the way he shows up every single day: getting the job done ahead of schedule, done right, and always with a smile on his face.

Guys like Floyd are a big part of what makes Radiator Supply House what it is.

We're proud to have you on the team, Floyd. Well deserved.



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